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Inter-Arab Affairs

Foreign Ministers To Meet in Beirut 22 Aug

NC1508142593 Paris AFP in English 1308 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] Amman, Aug 15 (AFP)—Arab parties in the Middle East peace talks will convene in Beirut on August 22 for preliminary discussions before the next round of talks with Israel, the PLO's Tunis representative said here Sunday [15 August].

Hakam Bal'awi told AFP that the meeting, to be attended by the foreign ministers of Syria, Jordan and Lebanon, together with the head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's political department, would aim to "coordinate Arab positions" ahead of the 11th session of bilateral talks with Israel in the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace process.

The coordinating session will also be attended by Egypt, the only Arab country to have made peace with Israel. The peace talks are due to take place in Washington on August 30.

Bal'awi also said he had passed a message from PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat to King Husayn of Jordan.

Palestinian Affairs

Al-Rantisi Agrees To Deportees' 2-Stage Return

NC1508110893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1050 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the Palestinian deportees in Marj al-Zuhur, announced today that the deportees have accepted Israel's offer to let them return to occupied Palestine in two stages. The offer states that 192 deportees can return next month and the rest can return toward the end of the year.

Direct Israeli-PLO Talks Expected in October

NC1508091693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0835 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Tunis, 15 Aug (MENA)—The Tunisian newspaper AL-SABAH cites Palestinian sources in Jerusalem as expecting direct negotiations between Israel and the PLO to start in October. By then, details of an agreement on an Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles will have been completed, and the scope of the current contacts between senior officials from both sides will have been expanded.

The sources told the paper today that the two sides set several preconditions for this cooperation, most notably mutual recognition, which will be announced simultaneously under the patronage of the United States and other countries.

The Palestinian sources explained that the recognition will be announced at the conclusion of the 11th round of peace negotiations. [passage omitted]

'Ashrawi on Issue of Withdrawal From Gaza, Jericho

NC1508200193 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the delegation to the peace negotiations, by an unidentified correspondent in Jerusalem; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] The next round of the peace talks is scheduled for the end of this month. Will the concept of Gaza and Jericho be the first item on the agenda?

['Ashrawi] The last document presented included the issue of Gaza and Jericho first, but not in isolation from:

1. The comprehensive political agreement through the document of the declaration of principles.

2. Being a way for starting the final solution, the withdrawal, the first step in the implementation of Resolution 242, and programming the withdrawal from the other occupied territories.

3. This withdrawal should be accompanied by the establishment of a Palestinian state led by the PLO.

Jericho-Based Government Proposed

NC1408164793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] The PLO chairman's adviser, Bassam Abu-Sharif, has proposed forming a Palestinian government under Yasir 'Arafat in Jericho in the occupied West Bank. He said such a government can negotiate with Israel to reach a final agreement about the future of the occupied territories.

Abu-Sharif affirmed that the members of the Palestinian negotiating delegation now officially represent the PLO. He pointed out that the PLO leadership has full confidence in them.

He called on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to make a positive step that would allow Israel to hold public meetings with officially accredited members of the PLO.

'Abd-al-Shafi Confirms 11th Round Participation

JN1508104893 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 15 Aug 93 p 22

[Excerpt] Amman, Gaza—AL-RA'Y, QUDS PRESS—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating team, told Palestinian opposition officials with whom he met in Amman last Friday [13 August] that he will participate in the 11th round of peace talks.

These officials told AL-RA'Y that 'Abd-al-Shafi has insisted on attending the talks to abort any plans aimed to liquidate the Palestine question.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian cadres in Tunis accepted his call for political reforms within the Palestinian leadership and that he and Faysal al-Husayni have joined the higher Palestinian committee that directs the negotiations.

'Abd-al-Shafi returned to Gaza yesterday at the end of an important visit, during which he participated in the Palestinian leadership meetings. He said that he had seized the opportunity of the visit to emphasize his ideas concerning collective leadership and democracy within the Palestinian establishments. He said: My call was favorably received in Tunis, and Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] accepted it in principle and is ready to listen to any proposals on collective leadership and reforms. He added: I told Abu-'Ammar that we are conducting a dialogue in the occupied territories and that we will present specific proposals to him, but the leadership should take the initiative and call for a broad conference for dialogue in which Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories participate.

'Abd-al-Shafi emphasized the importance of participation of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in the dialogue. He said that dialogue has begun between the PLO factions and independent personalities as a first stage. This dialogue will then expand to include parties outside the PLO framework.

'Abd-al-Shafi emphasized that what is taking place is not an alternative to the PLO. The PLO remains the leadership, and the reforms we want will be within the PLO framework. He added: When we say collective leadership, we mean a leadership in which all PLO factions and other factions outside the PLO are included. This includes Hamas, if it is willing to participate on a democratic basis and to realize collective leadership away from unilateral domination over decisionmaking. [passage omitted]

PLO's Sha'th: Next Round's Success Depends on U.S.

NC1408192693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1745 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "Talking Newspaper" program—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Both Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and the PLO have denied the accusations that Egypt is exercising pressure on the Palestinians. Do you believe these accusations will decrease Egypt's support for the Palestinian issue.

[Sha'th] I am sure this will not happen. Egypt has a strategic stand that did not change in the past and will not change now or in the future. Egypt has fought alongside the Palestinian people in long wars against the Israeli aggression. It has supported their cause in the military, political, and diplomatic fields. Palestine's freedom and independence and the existence of a Palestinian state on Egypt's border are an Egyptian, Arab, and Palestinian issue. Therefore, I believe Egypt's support has continued and will continue, God willing, until the Palestinian people and Palestine are liberated.

[Correspondent] Let us talk about Israel's nonobjection to the appointment of seven PLO negotiators in the Palestinian delegation. Do you believe this is a tacit agreement on starting a direct dialogue with the PLO, although Rabin has repeatedly stated that he will not change his stand on the PLO?

[Sha'th] Matters are changing rapidly in Israel toward recognizing the PLO and holding direct talks with it. The indications are many—from the abolition of the Israeli law banning meetings with PLO leaders to the beginning of the meetings on a certain level and then their upgrading to the ministerial level, to this recent decision acknowledging and recognizing that the members of the Palestinian delegation are in fact PLO members. Therefore, I believe all these are indications in this direction.

Naturally, they always bargain and want a price for every step they make. There is also disagreement among them, especially between Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres. However, all these are indications resembling those that happened in South Africa when the de Klerk government recognized the African National Congress and its leader Mandela. This was the real step toward correct negotiations to solve the problem in South Africa.

[Correspondent] Does this mean that the Madrid conditions have become obsolete and must be changed?

[Sha'th] The so-called Madrid conditions are in fact tacit conditions. There is nothing in the Madrid documents that bars contacts with the PLO. There is a single formula that says negotiators cannot be imposed on the other side without its approval. This applies both to the Palestinian and Israeli sides. Therefore, without changing these conditions, Israel can say it no longer objects to direct talks with PLO representatives. The issue will end at this point. Afterward, direct talks can begin without changing the Madrid conditions. There are other Madrid conditions that really must be changed because they were unfair to the Palestinian side. I believe we will also reach this stage.

[Correspondent] Israel has offered to return 200 deportees from southern Lebanon. How do you view this offer, given that deportees spokesman al-Rantisi now supports it?

[Sha'th] In fact, this is the agreement that was reached between the Palestinian delegation, Secretary Christopher, and Prime Minister Rabin when Christopher came to the region before the start of the ninth round to solve

the deportees issue, which then prevented the Palestinian delegation from resuming the talks. The return of these individuals was agreed to in the past. Israel announced the names of 146 deportees who could return. Now it has added the names of 54 deportees. Their number is now 200.

[Correspondent] The Arab cordon states foreign ministers will meet shortly in Beirut to agree on the Arab strategy in the next phase. Do you believe the political crisis that occurred between the negotiating delegation and the PLO leadership will adversely affect this meeting?

[Sha'th] I do not believe so. I believe this problem that arose and resulted in a large and full meeting in Tunis was perhaps a good thing. It was an important meeting, and it helped resolve all existing problems and unify all the officials. I believe this meeting produced positive results that will reflect positively on the Beirut meeting, God willing.

[Correspondent] Washington has sent invitations for the 11th round. What do you expect from this round?

[Sha'th] This will depend completely on the U.S. stand. The ball is now in the U.S. court. We conveyed to Christopher a positive and national stand that adheres to the rules of negotiations. Christopher must play the role of a sponsor and submit his concepts after having listened to all the parties and received all the required papers. Therefore, the success or failure of the next round will largely depend on whether the United States adheres to its role as sponsor of this conference and these talks and whether it adheres to the terms of reference and the conditions on the basis of which we entered these negotiations. It will also depend on the justness of the required solution and whether it is a real and permanent solution in this region.

Says Leaders Behind Meeting With Sarid

NC1608083593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0621 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 16 Aug (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, has disclosed that 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir had arranged the four-hour meeting that took place between him and Israeli Environment Minister Yosi Sarid in Cairo on 21 July. In a statement published in AL-AHRAM's Monday edition, Sha'th said that during the meeting Sarid stressed the position of the Meretz Party of the ruling coalition in Israel on the need to establish an independent Palestinian state, recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and negotiating with it directly on a final solution, the establishment of a Palestinian state after the transitional phase of autonomy.

Sha'th said that the meeting that was attended by another Meretz member, Dedi Zucker, dealt with the problems facing the peace process and the Israeli and Palestinian views on them. Sha'th also disclosed that a meeting had taken place between Israeli Minister Shulamit Aloni and PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud Darwish.

Sha'th pointed out that the direct meeting that was held in London on 2 July between British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and a PLO representative took place at U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's request. He noted that the meeting was extremely positive. He pointed out that this meeting represents a development in the U.S. position toward direct dealing with the PLO and accepting Britain's intercession in the peace process. He expressed his belief that the level of British-Palestinian contacts would be raised and that a meeting between Hurd and PLO Political Department Director Faruq Qaddumi would take place shortly.

Sha'th said that the Egyptian ambassador in Washington held intensive contacts on instructions from President Husni Mubarak to arrange the meeting between Warren Christopher and Faysal al-Husayni, head of the advisory committee of the Palestinian negotiating delegation. He said that the Egyptian efforts succeeded in arranging the meeting on the second day after the London meeting so that Christopher could hear Palestinian views on the U.S. draft of the Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles despite the Zionist lobby's attempts to block this meeting. Sha'th said that Christopher conveyed a message from the Palestinian leadership to Rabin on the return of the deportees in stages before December. He said that in accordance with this message, Rabin announced that he added the names of 54 deportees to the 146 others whom Israel had previously announced would be returned.

PLO Rejects Conditional Aid From EC for Territories

JN1408103193 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Aug 93 pp 1, 18

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Text] The PLO has rejected an offer to pump $590 million into the occupied Arab territories on the condition that the PLO approves an early assumption of power. The proposal was made to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat by the European troika delegation at his meeting with the delegation in the Tunisian capital last Thursday [12 August].

This was revealed by Hani al-Hasan, the second man in command in Fatah Movement, in a telephone interview with SAWT AL-SHA'B in Tunis yesterday. He stressed that the PLO has expressed its outright rejection of talks on details concerning this money, and said the PLO told the delegation that it should give the money without engaging in discussions of details or imposing conditions.

Al-Hasan said the negotiators will go to the 11th round of talks, emphasizing that the continuation of talks in the

same manner is like a dialogue between musical instruments. The United States has become totally biased toward Israel, and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will not make any concessions.

Answering a question, he said it is in the national interest to work out a new strategy for the negotiating process based on dropping the transitional stage and heading directly toward the final stage, as Syria and Lebanon are doing, and to discuss withdrawal from the Palestinian land occupied by the 5 June 1967 aggression, including Jerusalem.

The Fatah Movement's second man in command said heading for the final settlement necessitates joint Arab action by Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Morocco in support of the Jordanian-Palestinian action so that there will be an Arab balance on the Palestine question and to be able to force Israel to withdraw.

He also emphasized that the current crises the PLO is passing through are due to one basic reason—the political line it has followed. He said the political strategy followed by the PLO is wrong and will not lead to any nationalist objective that one can be proud of. He said this situation has been made clear by the recent political mistakes in dealing with the U.S. document.

Al-Hasan called for the reconsideration of the current strategy and said: All those who participated in the Palestinian leadership meetings have admitted that we are facing a dead end. The current political process is dangerous because of the U.S. bias toward Israel.

He said that when the Fatah Movement's Central Committee and the Revolutionary Council called for correcting the course of negotiations, the United States and Israeli started to raise certain issues. He added that some of these issues were represented in the meeting between Israeli Environmental Minister Yosi Sarid and Dr. Nabil Sha'th, which produced nothing substantial, and which aimed to create problems. He stressed: We in the Fatah Movement and the PLO are cautious about these things.

Al-Hasan described what happened in the Palestinian house in the past few days as a form of pressure on the Fatah Movement because it adopted a decision on correcting the course of the negotiations. He said some people tried to work with good intentions while others did not have such intentions.

Answering a question about the comprehensive national dialogue, he said: We will work quickly to develop the comprehensive national dialogue because solidarity is the only option for the Palestinians. He said the dialogue committee, which he heads, has worked out a political and organizational paper that will be presented during the dialogue. For the first time, this paper includes a special report on the economic and social conditions in the occupied Arab territories, he noted.

Presure From Gulf States Cited

JN1508114093 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 15 Aug 93 p 27

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] A PLO Executive Committee member has said that the Gulf states have let the PLO know in various ways that they will not extend any financial assistance to the occupied territories unless the Palestinian leadership accepts the U.S. settlement plans, including the early transfer of power.

PLO Executive Committee Member Taysir Khalid told AL-RA'Y that several European delegations have shown greater understanding of the Palestinian position and greater readiness to discuss alleviating the suffering of the Palestinian people under occupation than many Gulf states.

Khalid emphasized that the U.S. response to the Palestinian paper has come through a series of positions, and was sometimes conveyed through Egypt, and sometimes through the negotiating delegation.

He said: In their response, the Americans have stressed that the Palestinians must change their positions to harmonize with the U.S. settlement plan, and rejected the idea of disengagement in Jericho and Gaza first. Christopher asked the Palestinians through the Egyptians and their Foreign Minister, 'Amr Musa: Disengagement between whom? Between whose tanks, whose cannons, and whose forces? This brings to mind the long years of Israeli rejection of disengagement with Jordan.

Responding to a question, Khalid said that the resignation of a number of negotiating delegation members is a lesson for the Palestinian leadership, which dominates the PLO's political decisionmaking. He called for reassessing matters within the Executive Committee before the situation becomes more complicated and serious than it was recently when Executive Committee members were obliged to tender their resignations.

He added: The unilateral autocratic policy of the Palestinian leadership will drive several Executive Committee members to seriously consider shouldering their nationalist responsibilities and lift the cover given to this leadership's policy.

He said: Grumbling and complaining among several Executive Committee members has reached unprecedenced levels due to the insistence on blocking their role and seizing their powers. If the situation continues, a crisis more dangerous than that of the resignation of three members of the negotiating team will surface and bring into question the legitimacy of decisionmaking.

Concerning the authoritative bodies to be set up in the occupied homeland as mentioned in the recent Executive Committee statement, Khalid said nothing of this sort has happened, and that these statements are no more than maneuvers aimed to deceive public opinion in the occupied territories. Furthermore, these statements are a

continuation of the bureaucratic approach in dealing with the occupied territories, and at the same time an attempt to circumvent the national dialogue taking place there, led by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi and in which several Palestinian factions are participating.

Four Factions Criticize Egyptian Role in Peace Process

JN1308170593 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] Four Palestinian factions—the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, and the Palestine Liberation Front—have issued a joint statement rejecting what they termed Egyptian trusteeship and containment. They called for adherence to independent Palestinian decisionmaking, rejecting the U.S. paper, and starting a comprehensive national dialogue after stopping Palestinian participation in the Middle East bilateral and multilateral talks.

Complain of Egyptian Interference

PM1308153193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Aug 93 p 3

[Report by Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi: "'Arafat Agrees With 'Abd-al-Shafi on Collective Leadership Proposal, Urges Drafting of Formula for It"]

[Excerpts] Tunis—Informed Palestinian sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that a number of participants in the Palestinian leadership's expanded meeting in Tunis yesterday expressed their discontent and alarm at the scale of foreign and Arab—especially Egyptian—threats against and pressure on the Palestinian leadership.

In this context a number of participants—including Taysir Khalid from the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], Mahmud Isma'il from the Arab Liberation Front, and another prominent Fatah member—criticized Egyptian reactions to the Palestinian positions urging Egypt to stop putting pressure on the PLO and to direct this pressure at Israel, which is pursuing not only a policy of intransigence but a policy of aggression as well, as happened recently in southern Lebanon, with a view to reaping political results at the negotiating table.

They also criticized moving the negotiating channel to Egypt, considering this a form of confiscating independent Palestinian decisionmaking and blatant interference in the Palestinian people's internal affairs. One of them pointed out that the recent Palestinian paper is an Egyptian-Palestinian version prepared by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

It has been learned that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat politely and quietly requested Taysir Khalid, member of the PLO Executive Committee and the Democratic Front's representative on it, to stop making press statements attacking or criticizing the Egyptian role, because such statements could be interpreted as representing the Executive Committee's official position. [passage omitted]

Most speakers demanded that reforms be made in the PLO, that the roles of its institutions be restored, and that the Executive Committee be rehabilitated, on the grounds that it is the highest executive authority in the PLO. Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, spoke about the collective leadership issue, clarifying his previous position and saying that it is aimed at improving the Palestinian position, reorganizing the Palestinian house, and mobilizing the people behind their leadership so that it can stand fast in the face of the numerous pressures to which the PLO is exposed. He renewed his demand for the establishment of a collective leadership.

Yasir 'Arafat's reply to the collective leadership issue and the Executive Committee's rehabilitation issue was calm and objective. In this context 'Arafat said: "Draw up the formula you want. I am ready to deal positively with it. It will actually ease the work pressure on me, in addition to the pressure of the conditions and the crisis the PLO is experiencing, including the financial crisis." [passage omitted]

Among the Palestinian figures who expressed their strong discontent at the conditions prevailing in the PLO was Fatah Central Committee member 'Abbas Zaki, who told the Palestinian leadership's expanded meeting of the need to adopt a fixed strategy for Palestinian action in the various political, economic, struggle, and other spheres.

'Abbas Zaki attributes present deteriorating conditions on the Palestinian scene to the absence of democracy inside the present Palestinian leadership, and he backs the need to study matters thoroughly.

On the Egypt issue, 'Abbas Zaki says that Egypt has not done anything wrong, because it was we who went to it. [passage omitted]

Officials on Egypt's Role in Talks, Latest Meeting

Qaddumi Calls Involvement Positive

NC1408063593 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's political department, in Tunis by correspondent Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] There have recently been allegations about the Egyptian stand on the Palestinian cause. This stand is known to be one of constant support for our Palestinian brothers on all fronts. In this dialogue we ask you: How do you view these allegations and criticism from your position?

[Qaddumi] I do not know in fact where this criticism against the Egyptian stand comes from. But Egypt plays a positive role with the brother negotiators in Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan. Egypt plays a positive role in giving impetus to the peace process. I am not fully informed about the criticism leveled against Egypt, but we are fully convinced that the Egyptian role is an influential one that gives impetus to the peace process, especially on the Palestinian track.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Qaddumi, how do you view the fact that such allegations were brought up at this time?

[Qaddumi] I said that I am not completely familiar with these criticisms, but I know quite well that hostile circles are trying to stir up storms in the Arab arena and on all the Arab tracks. It is a kind of a psychological war to weaken the negotiating strength of the Arab negotiators. [Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq] Rabin—who is adopting an intransigent stand and who is carrying out terrorist practices inside and outside the occupied territories and committing aggression against our brothers in Lebanon and against the Palestinian camps—and these hostile circles want to bring up these distortions of the Arab positions because Rabin's disgraceful conduct almost threatened the peace process.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Faruq Qaddumi, let us move to recent reports that there are differences between the Palestinian leadership and some members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace process negotiations. Very frankly, can you tell us the truth about these differences?

[Qaddumi] Very frankly, we Palestinians speak all languages. Quite often we go to extremes in the democracy we practice inside and outside the territories. This is, in my view, one of the necessary principles that make all the Palestinian decisions as correct as possible. This dispersal and homelessness of the Palestinian people—both the communities and centers of interest—require us to listen to everyone, and listen patiently, to persevere with our actions and not to make any decision until we trot all over the world to hear the Palestinian viewpoint. Hence, our brothers inside the occupied territories do not merely receive instructions but do in fact participate in managing the affairs of this settlement. We listen to them. We change. We amend. The differences, or let me say the disparity in views, is normal. But we all agree that the PLO is the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and that the leadership is here at its headquarters in Tunisia.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Do we understand from this that the differences were patched up during the meetings that took place between the Palestinian leadership and the negotiating team?

[Qaddumi] Actually, in-depth discussions were held. We assessed all stages, including the last stage and Christopher's visit. The discussions also dealt with the U.S. stand: Does it still really wish to advance the peace process? Because we see that the position of the current administration differs from that of the previous administration. We also assessed Israeli terrorist practices. This is clear-cut evidence that the next stage is extremely critical.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Did you receive the U.S. response concerning the Palestinian document, the document that you had presented to the U.S. secretary of state during his visit to the region?

[Qaddumi] Actually, we did not submit a document to the U.S. Administration. Therefore, we do not expect a response. But the document that was submitted by the brothers represents our impression about the U.S. document. In other words, it was our impression about the document that was presented, and it reiterated the Palestinian basic principles, ideas, and political constants.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What about the U.S. stand?

[Qaddumi] The U.S. stand has not changed.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Does it accept or reject some articles of the document?

[Qaddumi] The issue is not one of rejection. I said that we have presented our impression. Our impression of this behavior or the U.S. document. We do not expect a response because we have our document, which we submitted right from the start and in which we defined our basic ideas. But this document represents our impression to the U.S. course of action.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Are the current Palestinian preparations made just for the resumption of the next round in general, or for actual participation in the next round of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations?

[Qaddumi] As regards the next round, we must discuss this issue with our Arab brothers. We must conduct a meticulous and broad assessment of the U.S. and Israeli stands as well as of the latest developments in the region, particularly after the treacherous Israeli aggression against Lebanon. We might be able to adopt an appropriate stand after this assessment.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Thank you very much, Mr. Qaddumi.

[Qaddumi] Thank you, may God bless you.

'Ashrawi Says Rumors Unfounded

NC1508081493 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the delegation to the peace talks, in Jerusalem by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, welcome to our program.

['Ashrawi] Thanks.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] You and other members of the Palestinian delegation have met with the Palestinian leadership. Could you tell us about the meetings you have held in Tunisia?

['Ashrawi] The meetings were intensive, as a matter of fact, as well as realistic, clear, frank, and remarkable for their spirit of responsibility and serious and constructive attempts to find solutions to certain issues and problems surrounding the Palestinian role in the negotiations. We discussed structural, organizational, and procedural measures such as the way we operate and the method of decisionmaking. We also discussed matters of content, focusing on the objectives, the strategy, and the way to fulfill our goals through negotiations. All these matters were discussed in a frank, responsible, and constructive way.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. 'Ashrawi, there have been reports of differences of opinion between the Palestinian leadership and some of the members of the negotiating team, including Your Excellency. We would like to know your frank opinion about these differences.

['Ashrawi] There have been no deep-seated differences. What I said is that what happened with regard to the paper in Jerusalem is merely an indication, one having to do with the way we operate. There was a need to clarify matters and deal with them in a frank and democratic way. We had to find solutions that are long-term rather than temporary with regard to the Palestinian method of operation in the negotiations. The current phase requires us to exert intensive, unified, and responsible efforts in the face of immediate challenges.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. 'Ashrawi, there have been criticism and allegations concerning the Egyptian position. Egypt is known for its support of the Palestinian issue. How do you see these allegations?

['Ashrawi] There has been no criticism of the Egyptian position. There have been many rumors. We have heard exaggerations, rumors, and unfounded reports. My advice is to ignore the rumors. We have never criticized the Egyptian position. We have simply been trying to mobilize all Arab parties, chiefly Egypt, to support the Palestinian position, issues, and demands. This is what we discussed. We have never taken a negative view of the Egyptian position.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Still, what do you think is the significance of such rumors cropping up at this time? Who will benefit from them?

['Ashrawi] Look, whenever a crisis or an issue is exaggerated by the media, there must be someone with an ax to grind, someone who hopes to gain from driving a wedge between the Arab brothers. We have to have Arab unity, cohesion, and responsible coordination in order to consolidate our position in the negotiations and prevent their being derailed.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. 'Ashrawi, what could you tell us about the Palestinian paper, which was prepared in response to the U.S. paper?

['Ashrawi] The Palestinian paper is based on the declaration of principles that we presented in an earlier document. The paper is based on the unshifting Palestinian position. There has been no profound difference of opinion in this regard. There have been some loose ends regarding performance, some technicalities that needed fixing, and some rewording that had to be done. We obtained the approval of the leadership to introduce these amendments before presenting the paper.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] A spokesman for the Israeli prime minister has stated that Israel does not object to the appointment of seven members of the negotiating team as members in the PLO's Steering Committee to the peace negotiations. What is the significance of this statement?

['Ashrawi] First of all, this is an internal Palestinian issue. Therefore, it's not for Israel to approve or to reject it. This step concerns the Palestinians alone. It's an internal issue, and we tried to solve it with a sense of responsibility, extreme caution, and with a purely Palestinian method, without resorting to the media or allowing anyone to interfere in it.

Second, Israel must be realistic. Israel cannot dictate its views on reality or try to impose anything it deems suitable on the other side according to its requirements, its priorities, or its concept of matters. If Israel wants to accomplish anything, it has to address the facts. It's the PLO that formed the team, and, therefore, it should be the one that steers the process. All decisions have been made by the PLO from the beginning, and Israel is fully aware of this fact. Israeli Prime Minister Rabin is also aware of it.

Third, there are signs indicating changes in the Israeli views on negotiations or on holding direct talks with the PLO or the PLO leadership. As you know, there are many ministers who advocate this course. There are also quite a few Knesset members who support direct negotiations with the PLO leadership. This is a realistic tendency that will bring about progress in the negotiations process. It is extremely logical that the concerned parties and representatives of the two sides hold negotiations over issues needing official decisions.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, before winding up this dialogue, I want to point out that as a result of the meetings and contacts between you and the U.S. secretary of state or between you and the Palestinian leadership, there is Arab concern over the Palestinian-Israeli track. What is your comment on the Palestinian-Israeli track?

['Ashrawi] I can say that this concern is legitimate because this track has faced obstacles since the start of negotiations. It has also encountered successive crises. This track has reached a deadlock as a result of several factors. Some of these factors are due to the intransigent Israeli stands during the negotiations and its attempts to

circumvent the terms of reference. Israel's practices in the occupied territories and its use of human rights as a tool of extortion and pressure, the biased U.S. stand, and the U.S. attempt to use the economic blockade and human rights issues as extortion to pressure the Palestinian side have all contributed to this deadlock.

We needed to pause to review the performance of the Palestinian action. This is an issue that we can take hold of and correct. That's exactly what we tried to do during our recent visit to Tunisia. As regards the U.S.-Israeli stands, these should be dealt with in a responsible and unbending manner. We must firmly safeguard Palestinian rights and demands in accordance with the terms of reference and international law.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Thank you very much, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi.

['Ashrawi] You are welcome.

'Arafat Interviewed on Peace, Egypt's Role

NC1508192093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1748 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Interview with Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, by Hamdi Jawhar; place and date not given; from the "Talking Newspaper" program—recorded]

[Text] [Jawhar] President Yasir 'Arafat, you have affirmed on numerous occasions the depth of the relations between the Arab Republic of Egypt and Palestine and President Husni Mubarak's role in supporting the Palestinian issue. We would like to hear your thoughts on Egypt's role in supporting the Palestinian issue and of recent reports casting doubt on Egypt's role.

['Arafat] First of all, they found no blemish in a rose, they said it is red. [Arabic proverb]. Do you hear me, Hamdi?

[Jawhar] Yes, sir.

['Arafat] Undoubtedly, it is a storm stirred up by the enemies of Palestine, Egypt, and the Arab nation. These enemies do not wish anything good for the Palestinian issue. Egypt has played and is playing the role of a full partner. It is doing so proceeding from its national, religious, and historical duty. We thank Egypt—people and government—and struggler President Muhammad Husni Mubarak for playing this role. Therefore, I say these are trivial attempts to confuse the situation at these critical and historic times through which the Palestinian issue is passing. The Palestinian issue is now at a historic crossroads in this negotiating process, which is passing through very difficult circumstances. These attempts aim to undermine all the friends and brothers of Palestine so it is left alone at a difficult time. However, in the name of our people, our revolutionaries, our blessed intifadah, our detainees, and our martyrs, I tell my brother Husni Mubarak and I tell Egypt: Thank you, thank you, thank you for this wonderful role of full partner that Egypt has taken on, not for its sake but for the sake of Palestine and for the sake of Jerusalem—the first of the two qiblahs, the third holy mosque, the place from which Prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven, and the place of Christ's death.

[Jawhar] Mr. President, you participated in the discussions that took place in Egypt on the U.S. working paper and the Palestinian paper prepared by the Palestinians with the help of Egypt. We want to shed light on this, especially as Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said he had participated in the discussions that took place with Your Excellency and with the Palestinian delegation in Cairo to prepare the Palestinian paper that came in reply to the U.S. paper.

['Arafat] Yes, undoubtedly, it must be known that the consultations between us and our brothers in Egypt are continuing on several levels and not only regarding this subject. Don't forget that before the Gulf war, there was a 10-point Egyptian initiative. Egypt also diligently contributed to Baker's five-point plan to break the stalemate in the peace process before the Gulf war. Afterward, President Bush's initiative was issued on the bases of fundamental principles; namely, land-for-peace; implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338, which means withdrawal from all the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem; recognition of the Palestinian people's national and political rights; and security for all in the region.

Egypt has not taken the stand of a spectator on this issue. As I told you, we regard it as a full partner in anything that concerns the Palestinian issue and even insist on this role of the full Egyptian partner. Don't forget that we are proud that our delegation to the talks includes two Egyptian brothers who are experts in negotiations, legislation, and international laws. We are proud of their participation with us since the Madrid conference began. Their participation is effective, tangible, and positive, and we thank them for it. Of course, their participation was approved by struggler President Husni Mubarak.

That's not all. Don't forget the many contacts held by Egypt to give impetus to the peace process. I specifically recall the time when Israel tried to disavow Resolutions 242 and 338 with regard to the Palestinian territories. I remind you of the efforts made by my brother President Mubarak when Israeli Prime Minister Rabin came to Ismailia. At this meeting, Rabin was convinced and issued his famous statement that Resolution 242 applies to the Palestinian territories in the West Bank and Gaza in the same way that it applies to the Golan. That was a very important statement. This statement, which my brother President Mubarak succeeded in getting from Rabin, is one of the bases for the Palestinian working paper, particularly the last one that was given to the Americans. We thank the Egyptian effort from the bottom of our hearts.

[Jawhar] Mr. President, if we move to the Palestinian stand on autonomy in light of the Palestinian paper,

what is your concept of the Palestinian stand on the issues of territorial jurisdiction, population, and legislation?

['Arafat] And Jerusalem?

[Jawhar] And Jerusalem.

['Arafat] Yes, this should be known. If Rabin is saying that Jerusalem is a red line for him, then Jerusalem is a red line for us—the Palestinians, the Arabs, the Muslims, and the Christians. Jerusalem is a Palestinian-Arab-Islamic-Christian issue and this should be clear to everyone. We presented our plan, the PISGA, the Palestine Interim Self-Government Authority [acronym and name in English] right from the start. The Israelis are talking about arrangements [previous word in English]. We reject this. As I said, the Madrid conference was based on President Bush's initiative, the principle of land for peace, Resolutions 242 and 338, the Palestinian people's legitimate political rights, and security for all. This is in addition to the letters of invitation and assurances we received from the cosponsors Russia and the United States. This matter is as clear as day to us. The Israelis are trying to avoid it and to avoid resorting to the terms of reference that signaled the start of the Madrid conference and were mentioned in the letters of invitation and guarantees and President Bush's initiative. Regrettably, there is some U.S. bias toward the Israeli viewpoint. We urge the U.S. side to be an honest party so as to be a sponsor acceptable to all.

In this respect, I want to say something important, namely that we insist that this transitional phase be applied for two years and that action, discussions, and negotiations over the final phase start in the third year. I also want to recall, and this should be understood by everyone, that, according to the letters of invitation and guarantees, the negotiations should continue for more than one year. [sentence as heard] Twenty months have now passed since the start of the negotiations, that is 10 months more than the year that the talks were not supposed to go beyond under any circumstances.

I consider every day after 31 October 1992 to be subtracted from the transitional period. Everyone near and far should understand this point. We are not running a charity organization here, brother Hamdi. We are operating within a serious political process that we consider a political battle, like the intifadah, like the resistance, and like the struggle on all the other fronts. This is one of the fronts we are struggling on—the political front. Just like the Vietnamese who struggled and negotiated, and just like the Algerians who negotiated and struggled during the first and second [word indistinct], we the Palestinians will struggle, negotiate, and step up our intifadah until the Palestinian flag is hoisted over Jerusalem's walls, mosques, and churches.

Here I wish to refer to our recent paper in which we pointed out that if they wish to find a way out of the stalemate, we....[pauses] When they proposed that we get the Gaza Strip first, we refused. We reject this proposal because under no circumstances can we agree to divide our land and people. But we were flexible nevertheless. We proposed that we get the Gaza Strip and Jericho. The Gaza Strip is linked to Egypt through Rafah, and Jericho is linked to Jordan through the crossings—King 'Abdallah and Allenby Bridges. We consider this a form of the disengagement of ties, a test of good intentions for both sides, not the one side. It shows their good intentions, as well as ours. This, in general terms, is what we aspire to and what we recently proposed. We hope the two cosponsors will have a responsible stand. We hope they will understand the meaning of what we have proposed on jurisdiction and Jerusalem, that is, geographic jurisdiction and the issues of Jerusalem, the settlements, the Gaza Strip and Jericho, and the powers of the provisional self-government during the transitional stage over the rest of the Palestinian territories.

[Jawhar] Mr. President, do you expect progress during the 11th round, which starts at the end of this month?

['Arafat] As I told you before, this depends on the behavior of the U.S. and Russian sponsors, especially the U.S. sponsor. These two have a legal, moral, international, and civil responsibility. Everyone should understand that peace in the Middle East is not only a Palestinian or Arab demand. It is an Arab and Palestinian demand, in addition to being an Israeli, European, American, and international demand because stability in the Middle East region does not just involve the people of the Middle East region. It does not concern only the Palestinians, Syrians, Lebanese, Jordanians, or Egyptians. It involves the whole world. It should be made clear that otherwise chaos will prevail throughout the region, as well as Balkanization. I say this, and God is a witness to the fact that I have informed you. Without a just and comprehensive peace, anarchy and Balkanization will reign in the region.

[Jawhar] Mr. President, with regard to the authorization given the Palestinian delegation during the next round, do you believe that this is enough to respond to Israel's attempts and claims that it can make headway on the Syrian front since it believes that Syria can make a decision on this issue while the Palestinians will not be able to make any decisions with regard to the negotiations?

['Arafat] Have they made any proposals to us based on the terms of reference and found that we could implement them? We proposed the challenge of the Gaza Strip-Jericho as a form of disengagement of ties, although they are bound by the declaration of principles and the establishment of Palestinian authority for the provisional self-government on the rest of the Palestinian territories. We made this proposal to them, and they should reply. The ball is in their court, my dear brother Hamdi.

As for progress on the Syrian track, we welcome it greatly. And if there is progress on the Lebanese track, we welcome that, too. We also welcome progress on the

Jordanian track. Who told you that we do not consider any progress on any of the Arab tracks as a Palestinian gain? When we say that the question of Palestine is a single Arab cause, then any progress on any of the tracks is progress for the Arab course. This should be made clear to everyone. The Israelis should not attempt to play this dirty game. Thank God, the Arab stand is one of coordination, integration, consultation, and understanding. We agree that through our negotiations we will establish comprehensive peace in the region that takes into consideration the interests of the whole Arab nation. You understand, my brother Hamdi?

[Jawhar] Yes, sir. How do you view the importance of the upcoming meeting of the cordon states, or the five countries involved in the peace process, expected to be held in Beirut, especially since it comes after developments in the region—the Israeli aggression on southern Lebanon and the U.S. secretary of state's talks in the region?

['Arafat] I believe that this meeting will be very important because it comes after Secretary Christopher's visit to the region and after the indiscriminate Israeli muscle-flexing through its bestial attacks on the Palestinian camps and Lebanese towns and villages, which led to the displacement of over 350,000 Lebanese and Palestinian people. Add to that the destruction of the Lebanese villages and towns and Palestinian camps. On this occasion, I say the following: If Rabin believes that his military muscle-flexing can weaken the Palestinian, Lebanese, or Arab resolve he is deluding himself. He is deluding himself. He is completely deluding himself.

When we said peace, we meant peace of the brave, not surrender. This must be clear to all—to Israel, to the cosponsors of the conference, and to the whole world. We want the peace of the brave, not surrender. Undoubtedly, the upcoming meeting will take into consideration all these conditions, including what has been achieved on the Syrian, Lebanese, Jordanian, and Palestinian tracks. Undoubtedly, the meeting will also take into consideration the bad situation in which our people are living under the occupation, especially the economic conditions resulting from the blockade and starvation in which some brothers are regrettably taking part and also the financial blockade imposed on the PLO. I also hope we will be able to find the quick means for the Arabs to pay the $500 million they have pledged to compensate Lebanon, southern Lebanon, and Lebanese towns, villages, and camps.

[Jawhar] Out of their concern for the Palestinian issue and the unity between the Palestinian people and negotiators, the Egyptian people have followed the reports on the desire of the members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks to resign. We want to reassure the Egyptian people in particular and the Arab people in general about the unity of the Palestinian ranks and the Palestinians' rallying around their leadership. Egypt has affirmed that this is a national leadership that can achieve for the Palestinian people all that they desire.

['Arafat] The subject of the resignation was resolved after it was referred to the PLO Executive Committee, which had the final say. The Executive Committee formed the delegation. Therefore, any resignation by any member of this delegation must be discussed by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee made a decision to take the necessary measures to improve the performance of the delegation and upgrade the coordination and cooperation between the delegation and the follow-up committee formed by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee considered them as one inseparable unit and body to fill the gaps that might appear here and there. I want to say proudly that this storm, which some wanted to depict as a wild storm, was a simple misunderstanding between the brother strugglers in the same trench. We are proud of the performance of the delegation members, their work, their patriotism, and their loyalty to the cause and their people. I tell them: we will work side by side until we pray together in Jerusalem.

[Jawhar] Mr. President, we thank you for this dialogue. We hope the Palestinian cause will achieve its goals and restore its legitimate rights. Do you wish to address a message to the Egyptian people at the end of this dialogue?

['Arafat] I tell my beloved ones in Egypt—president, government, and people. I tell them: We remain loyal to the pledge. A pledge is a pledge. An oath is an oath. This resistance and intifadah will continue until the Palestinian flag flutters over the walls, minarets, and churches of Jerusalem. God willing, we will pray together in Jerusalem. Tell every child, every woman, and every man in Egypt: We remain loyal to the pledge. We will work side by side until victory and until we meet in liberated Jerusalem, with God's help.

[Jawhar] Mr. President, we thank you very much. We wish you and the Palestinian issue every progress and success.

['Arafat] Special greetings from me to his excellency struggler President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Urges 'Peace of the Brave'

LD1308200693 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Speech by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, on the occasion of the 69th month of the intifadah—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Behold. God promised you one of the [enemy] parties, that it should be yours. Ye wished that the one unarmed should be yours. But God willed to justify the truth according to his words and to cut off the roots of the unbelievers. [Koranic verses]

O masses of the valiant intifadah, O heroes of the sacred revolution of stones and the brilliant popular anger, O

those who are engaged in confronting the aggression in the camps, towns, and villages of the steadfast southern Lebanon, O sons of our great people in all the places of the homeland and the diaspora. [passage omitted] You are linked by ties of sacred struggle to your brother mujahidin who are continuing their blessed intifadah in our occupied land for the 69tyh month. While turning the earth into a volcano of angry fire and burning [word indistinct] under the feet of the usurper occupiers, our brave masses are aware that Israel is exercising the maximum state of escalation in an attempt to impose particular specifications, conditions and circumstances for a settlement—a settlement that it wants to impose on our people and our region.

When Israel carried out its extensive attack on Lebanon a few days ago, it was done amid collusive international silence and Arab negativity that had resulted from sorrowful division and disunity following the Gulf crisis. It was aimed at defining its perception of a settlement: a settlement that aims at liquidating the resistance and the national rifle and striking against the intifadah, a settlement that aims at imposing the Israeli security map on the region as a whole, and a settlement in which Israel will not hesitate to perpetrate the most vile crimes—from the expulsion of hundreds of thousands of Lebanese and Palestinians to savage shelling and the destruction of camps, villages, and towns—in an attempt to impose it.

Our masses who have experienced the practice of the struggle realized by virtue of their awareness, experiment, and farsightedness that matters were being pushed to their end and that matters and events were being speeded up so as to drag the region into accepting the American-Israeli settlement, which contradicts the interests, rights, and aims of our Arab nation. During the past period we expected Israel to resort to escalation after it had become weary as a result of our steadfastness on the intifadah front and at the front of the negotiations. We told our masses that we, while experiencing the most difficult state of the multi-type and multi-form blockade, have to get ready to face more pressures, conspiracies, and bargaining. We said that the masses of our people who have struggled, fought and sacrificed together with the free and mujahidin of our nation since the beginning of this century are ready for more sacrifices and steadfastness in the face of any conspiracy that aims at our rights and objectives, and aims at our land and holy places. These masses will not submit, and their resolve will not weakened until they realize their definite national aims. [passage omitted]

Brothers, my beloved, my people, all my people, my friends, all my friends: During Christopher's recent tour and the visits by the American envoys to the region, our delegation reemphasized the fixed Palestinian position—that any progress in the peace process is linked to the American and the Israeli acknowledgement of a fundamental fact, that the Palestinian rule and extent of authority during the transitional period encompass all the Palestinian territories that were occupied in 1967, including Holy Jerusalem.

A categoric rejection of the American ideas on the so-called earlier transfer of the administrative competence was also reiterated because such ideas were contrary to the point of reference of the peace process. They overlooked them. They meant the fragmentation of the Palestinian land and its unity, a matter that should cast doubt on the credibility of the American role. America should, however, play the role of a neutral sponsor and should protect the point of reference of the negotiations and the whole peace process because otherwise the peace process might just collapse, a matter that would lead the region into the furnace of further strikes and explosions and to Balkanization, the repercussions of which no one could keep himself safe from or could control.

That is why, when the criminal Israeli aggression against Lebanon took place, we urged the United States and the UN Security Council to force Israel to end its aggression and to end its air, land, and maritime bombardment of the steadfast camps, villages, and towns of Lebanon and to end its aggressive practices in our occupied territories as well as its iron fist and its encirclement and starvation of our masses and children and to put an end to its repeated violation of human rights and our Islamic and Christian holy places in Palestine. During the meetings between Mr. Christopher and our delegation in Jerusalem, a comprehensive Palestinian response was conveyed to the American Secretary of State on the fundamental points and topics in the talks. A reaffirmation of the pivotal place of the issue of Jerusalem was also made and [our] geographical sovereignty [before] any further moves in the negotiations was reiterated. And an affirmation for the need to respect the points of reference of the peace process, which should lead to the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242, that is to full Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories, was also made.

When they proposed an earlier handing over of the administrative posts in Gaza, we countered by proposing an effective end to the fighting along the Palestinian front in Jericho and Gaza as it happened in former Arab fronts.

We reaffirm in these crucial days that salvaging the peace process and putting it on its proper course begin with the need to apply UN Resolutions 242 and 338 to Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip as being occupied Palestinian territories. This occupation must be removed. We reaffirm that the Palestinian issue is the key and gateway to peace. No one must bypass or ignore it because it is the heart of the conflict and the key to peace in the area. In particular, Holy Jerusalem is a Palestinian issue as much as it is an Arab, Islamic, and Christian issue. [passage omitted]

Masses of the intifadah, a new, crucial stage has begun in our struggle for our inalienable national rights. This new

stage was studied and evaluated at the important meetings of the Palestinian leadership and the Executive Committee of the PLO. They have taken a number of decisions concerning developing the formula of the national action inside the occupied homeland to protect the intifadah and consolidate and strengthen the position of the people, national institutions, and also improve and strengthen the role of the Palestinian delegation and its ability. Also at this stage, we expect more wars, siege, starvation, and pressures on our masses and revolution in an attempt to bring us to our knees and break our national revolutionary will.

At this stage, we should expect to see more of the campaign that seeks to destroy our national institutions as one way to blackmail us and make us submit or make concessions. At this stage, we must expect the escalation of the war, which seeks to shatter our domestic front and to try and strike our firm national unity, the unity of our people, cadres, institutions, and groupings and to strike our people and its leadership—the PLO.

We should expect a great deal. We should expect a great deal of conspiracies, maneuvers, and the detested psychological war—the spreading of lies, machinations, misrepresentations and blowing things out of proportion—all in an attempt to cause a rift and sow the seeds of sedition. It is a conspiracy whose authors are exploiting the democratic traditions that we cherish, the plurality that we keenly safeguard, and the methods of frank dialogue that constitute the most prominent foundations of action in our militant arena.

But all must know that all these conspiracies will soon founder and break upon the rock of our rigid determination, our free will, and strong unity that imposes the proper and vivid image of our militant revolutionary march and our sincere and loyal jihad. [passage omitted]

Masses of our combatant people, masses of our fighting Arab nation: In the past few weeks and days, noises were made about contacts between Israel and the PLO. Everybody knows that we had, some time ago, offered the peace of the brave to the Israeli leadership. However, the latter still prefers to hide behind obsolete positions and formulas and does not find in itself enough courage to make the appropriate decision in order not to waste the opportunity of achieving a peace that would spare the region further suffering, tension, lives, and bloodshed. We call again on the Israeli leadership to respond to this peace and to prove its seriousness and its attachment to the core of the peace by meeting its requirements. Our position finds understanding throughout the world. Nobody wants to see the negotiating process continue while there is a current process of laying down the rules of the new world order on the basis of double standards and on the basis of an opposition to international legitimacy and to justice and human rights. Now that we are on the threshold of the 21st century, nobody wants to see some continue to practice the law of the jungle and ignore the rights of the people.

In our recent tour and our talks with the friends in Malaysia, Vietnam, and China and in our continuous contacts with our African friends, the nonaligned states, our Muslim brethren, and also with our European, Japanese, and Canadian friends, in addition to our continuous contacts with the Russian cosponsors, we sensed and are still sensing an understanding of our theses. At the same time, we are still anxious to give the Arab body strength, vigor, cohesion, and unity to enable it to confront the ever-increasing challenges in this new world order, which will determine whether we survive or not.

O every man, every woman, and every young boy and young girl in my country; O our striking forces and our militant cadres and our active cadres; O masses of the glorious intifadah; O heroes everywhere in the homeland and the diaspora; brothers and sisters in the steadfast camps of Lebanon; my dear heroes in the enemy's prisons and detention camps; brave wounded friends: The Israeli aggressors thought, while they were destroying our heroic camps, villages, and towns in Lebanon, that they were destroying our patriotic will and our fighting spirit. They also thought that they could, on a new land, again force the dispersal of our people and the fraternal Lebanese people. But steadfastness and firmness thwarted the conspiracy and exposed the plotters. The aggressors imagined, while demonstrating megalomania in the occupied territory or in southern Lebanon after losing their nerves as a result of the escalation of the glorious resistance and the blessed intifadah, that their oppression and fascist repression could bury the intidafah or weaken the resistance. [passage omitted]

Account of Delegates' Criticism of PLO Published

TA1508113993 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 15 Aug 93 p 3

[Report by Yoram Binur]

[Text] "This leadership must be toppled. It is inept and incapable," Faysal al-Husayni, alluding to the PLO leadership, stated at a meeting held by the Palestinian delegation in Jerusalem on 7 August, prior to their departure for Tunis.

According to the minutes of the meeting, excerpts of which were obtained by HADASHOT, the Palestinian delegates discussed the possibility of submitting their resignation. In addition to al-Husayni, the meeting was attended by Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Nabil Qassis, Dr. Mamduh al-'Akar, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, Jabr Faddah, and Su'ad al-'Amiri.

'Urayqat: "I am in favor of submitting our personal resignations."

Qassis: "I am against Sa'ib's idea, because some of our resignations might be accepted and others might be rejected in Tunis."

Faddah: "I also object to it. We all remain under 'Arafat's command, and I am speaking for all the Gazan members of the delegation."

Al-'Akar: "I call for a meeting of the members from the territories and the leadership overseas to discuss the problems."

'Abd-al-Shafi: "We should not go to another round of talks before we discuss our internal problems."

Al-'Amiri: "I insist on submitting my personal resignation, just as I demand that we submit our collective resignation. The headquarters in Tunis is corrupt and we should not work with it. We have come out against it and overruled one of its decisions before, after we realized that an 'independent national decision' had not been independent at all and had actually come from Cairo and the United States. Now they want to settle scores with us over the document that was presented to Christopher, although it was imposed on us by Cairo."

Al-Husayni intervened at this point and related to them the chain of events concerning the presentation of the Palestinian letter to the U.S. secretary of state on Thursday two weeks ago: "When I arrived in Egypt, Abu-Mazin [Muhammad 'Abbas] and Nabil Sha'th gave me a document they had drafted together with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and the Egyptians. I read it and immediately rejected it, and I also told them that nobody would accept such a document.

"Then I phoned 'Arafat to tell him about it, and I found out that he had agreed to the contents of the document. 'Arafat demanded that I hand the document to Dennis Ross. I asked him to sign it himself. He did that and sent me back the document. When I returned to Jerusalem you refused to accept it. In fact, none of you accepted it and that is why we had to reword it, particularly the clauses dealing with the geographical borders of the autonomy. This amendment angered everybody, both 'Arafat and the Americans. Mubarak called 'Arafat and firmly told him: You are kidding me, Yasir old boy. You promised me to submit the document to Dennis Ross as it was, but you did not. 'Arafat replied that his promise remained in effect, and that the members of the delegation had acted of their own volition."

According to al-Husayni, Mubarak told 'Arafat: You must put an end to this child's play. You do not know how to rein in these people. I will no longer trust your promises.

Al-Husayni added: " 'Arafat demanded that I hand over the document to Christopher and asked me to check the issue of Gaza and Jericho first, but he forgot all about East Jerusalem."

He went on to say: "This leadership must be toppled, it is inept and incapable. If headquarters continues to pressure me I will publish documents signed by 'Arafat. Threats against me have already started, with a hideous leaflet—supposedly released by the al-'Asifah movement in the territories, but actually originating in Tunis—turning all sort of people, such as Sa'id Kan'an in Nabulus and others, against me."

Harsh words were also uttered by Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesperson of the delegation: "The leadership in Tunis is not interested in the people or the problem. They have abandoned the youth and sacrificed it for their personal interests."

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 15 August carries a report by Golan Yokhpaz in which he says: "Palestinian sources in the territories explicitly said today that the dispute between the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks and the PLO leadership in Tunis has not been completely settled. A small spark could set alight a true fire in the relations between the delegation and 'Arafat, the sources said."]

Al-Husayni Denies Statements

TA1608073893 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] This evening Faysal al-Husayni denied reports disseminated today that during a meeting held at the Palestinian delegation's headquarters a week ago, he had called for toppling the PLO leadership in Tunis. Al-Husayni told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that those reports are baseless.

'Ashrawi Rejects Reports

JN1508170293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Aug 93

[From the "With The Events" feature]

[Text] Members of the Palestinian delegation Faysal al-Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Sa'ib 'Urayqat have reportedly made statements critical of the PLO leadership in Tunis. Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation, has denied what was attributed to the three delegates. Let us hear what she has to say:

[Begin recording] ['Ashrawi] It is very clear that this is a cheap and unfounded fabrication. The publication of so-called proceedings of phony sessions is a clear attempt to drive a wedge between the inside and the outside, the delegation and the leadership, in an attempt to strike at the PLO. We say, without any doubt, that this is a flagrant fabrication and distortion that we totally reject. We are confident that the Palestinian people are aware of these attempts, which cannot be believed in any way.

[Unidentified reporter] Despite the fact that these reports were leaked by Palestinian sources or sources that claim to be Palestinian?

['Ashrawi] Any Israeli or other journalist can say they are Palestinian sources. If there is an official, authorized source that has the courage to say that he leaked these reports, then let us hear that source. But creating these fabrications and claiming that Palestinian sources are

making these cheap statements does not mean they are true. This also gives an indication that these statements are totally unfounded.

[Reporter] Will you issue a statement refuting what has been said today?

['Ashrawi] So many things are published. There are so many rumors, fabrications, and allegations. There is a war of rumors, a psychological war, going on. If we answer all these fabrications, we will have no time to do our real job, namely, to work on the political process and the negotiations. Things must be explained however, and we will respond to this issue because this is an exposed attempt. The Palestinian public opinion will not fall victim to these attempts.

[Reporter] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, during the Israeli cabinet's meeting today, most ministers said nothing has changed in the Palestinian delegation's status, even after it was announced that the delegation is part of the PLO's Palestinian steering committee.

['Ashrawi] What has changed is the structure of the Palestinian team charged with following up and supervising the negotiating process. From the very beginning, the delegation was the PLO's delegation and was appointed by the PLO, which supervises the process and makes the political decisions. This has not changed at all. The change in the structure does not mean that the fact that the delegation is the PLO's delegation and is the accredited Palestinian delegation has changed. The question relates to how Israel reacts to this reality. The Israeli parties, or, rather, the Israeli Government has constantly tried to overlook this reality and deal with a fabricated reality that satisfies it. But, in reality, this delegation has been the PLO's delegation from the beginning and it [the Israeli Government] is negotiating with it. We must arrive at a point when the Israelis must negotiate officially and directly with the PLO in order to achieve a binding agreement.

[Reporter] Does the Israeli Government's overlooking of what has happened in Tunis recently constitute a step toward mutual recognition and dialogue between Israel and the PLO?

['Ashrawi] This is a sign. There are many signs, including behind-the-scenes or secret meetings, the statements made by ministers or Knesset members, and the handling of this issue in a calm manner. These signs signal the inevitability of direct and official negotiation with the PLO.

[Reporter] Finally, will the new steering committee meet in Amman soon?

['Ashrawi] Yes. There has to be a meeting, and work is under way to prepare for a coordination meeting to assess things and prepare for the next phases.

(Reporter] Before 30 August?

['Ashrawi] Yes.

[Reporter] Thank you, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi.

['Ashrawi] You're welcome. [end recording]

'Arafat Suspends Adviser for Role in Crisis

TA1508173193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] Sources in East Jerusalem say PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has suspended his adviser on the territories, Akram Haniyah, over his support for Faysal al-Husayni in the recent crisis between delegation members and PLO officials. According to the sources, 'Arafat blames Haniyah for plotting with al-Husayni to create the recent crisis. Haniyah was in the past editor of the AL-SHA'B newspaper in the territories and was later deported by Israel. The sources said he will be replaced by Nabil Sha'th.

Abu-Zayyad Denies Dispute Within Talks Delegation

TA1608092993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, by Shalom Qital—live]

[Text] [Qital] Will the dispute between the Palestinian delegation in the territories and the PLO leadership lead to the establishment of a new delegation?

[Abu-Zayyad] I do not think there is a dispute.

[Qital] What? There is no dispute? We have been hearing about it for a week.

[Abu-Zayyad] No, no. First all, the Israeli media has a very vivid imagination and has been trying to inflate the issue and describe it as a dispute. In my opinion, what is happening is a natural result of an unnatural situation whereby indirect negotiations are being held with the PLO via a delegation. Af is the case with every delegation, this one has limited powers; it receives instructions and carries them out. As a result of the geographic distance and the difficulties in communication between the messengers and their superiors, issues occasionally come up that call for a debate and examination, and you describe that as a dispute.

[Qital] Is it just a technical matter, or is it a question of who is in charge and who calls the shots?

[Abu-Zayyad] Personally, I fail to see a struggle over who is calling the shots. I do not know of any delegate who does not recognize or accept the fact that the exclusive authority and power to make decisions lies with the leadership, that is, with the PLO. I have not heard anybody challenge that.

[Qital] Nevertheless, the fact that Faysal al-Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi, and others went to Tunis to submit

their resignation, or at least to threaten to resign, does not indicate that they implicitly accept the PLO's say.

[Abu-Zayyad] Every time you feel you do not understand what is happening behind you or have questions you would like to check out and to which you would like to find answers does not necessarily mean that you have to or are going to resign.

[Qital] Sir, in your opinion, will we see the same Palestinian delegation in Washington on 1 September?

[Abu-Zayyad] I hope we will be in Washington by 30 August, and I hope that this time the Israeli side will come to Washington with a clear position and willingness to deal with the substance of the negotiations and to make progress.

[Qital] Well, that is a different matter altogether. Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, thank you very much.

Crisis Said Resolved 'For Now,' But 'Disarray' Remains

JN1408085293 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Aug 93 pp 1, 10

[By Wafa' 'Amr: "Special to the JORDAN TIMES]

[Text] Amman—The crisis sparked by the resignation of three top Palestinian delegates to the peace talks has been temporarily resolved, but the long-term problem of how to integrate Palestinian decision-making from inside the occupied territories and the diaspora remains a big challenge for the Palestinian leadership.

Palestinian delegates who returned to the occupied territories via Amman Friday [13 August], after almost five days of heated debates at the PLO's headquarters in Tunis, said the crisis was solved to the satisfaction of both the PLO and the delegation, for now.

"We have reached decisions which we believe will solve all the (immediate) problems and which will enable us to pursue the peace process through means that will lead to the attainment of our people's objectives," Faysal al-Husayni, overall leader of the Palestinian peace team, said upon arrival from Tunis.

The PLO's Executive Committee refused to accept the resignation of the three members of the delegation—Mr. al-Husayni, Sa'ib 'Urayqat and Hanan 'Ashrawi, and issued a statement following the meetings renewing its confidence in the peace delegation in pursuing its "national tasks."

Some PLO officials said the Executive Committee's statement reflected the delegation's triumph in achieving renewed confidence from the PLO, and in integrating Palestinians from the occupied territories in the PLO's decision-making structure. The crisis also played a role in reactivating the PLO's decision-making institutions, mainly the Executive Committee, which have been bypassed by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and a small circle of aides, PLO officials said.

PLO information chief Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, who is a close aide to Mr. 'Arafat, said in Tunis Thursday that the Executive Committee had decided to merge the leadership-committee of the negotiating team with the PLO committee for supervising the peace talks.

"This is a decision aimed at unifying work inside and outside (the occupied territories)," Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh said.

The new framework of action by the PLO was aimed at giving the local Palestinian leadership a bigger say in decisions, as well as introducing some system of checks and balances into the PLO's decision-making process the officials said.

But these officials also expressed skepticism over the degree of influence the local Palestinian leaders would have on future decisions by the PLO.

"The crisis was solved for now, and committees were set up, but the disarray over the crisis in Palestinian circles has not reflected a serious attempt by the PLO leadership to cede some powers to the local leadership," one of the officials said.

The week-long discussions, he said, did not seriously deal with the roots of the problems that led to political divisions in the delegation itself, in the PLO leadership and amongst all sectors of the Palestinian community.

The recent crisis, triggered by differences over the decision- making process and lack of coordination and consultation, also exposed serious problems over relations between the diaspora Palestinians and those living inside the occupied territories and channels of communication between them.

The yearning of Palestinians inside the occupied territories for a role in shaping Palestinian politics has been ignored since the PLO's forced departure from Lebanon in 1982, officials said. The growing importance attached to the role of the "inside" in Palestinian resistance against the Israeli occupation, particularly since the intifadah began in 1987, has not been easily accepted by the Tunis-based leadership, which continued to deal with the local leadership as order receivers, Palestinian observers and analysts say. However, the Madrid formula of the current peace process which imposed a delegation solely from the occupied territories compelled the PLO to take seriously the viewpoints and opinions of Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories or otherwise risk rebellion.

The delegation's spokeswoman, Dr. 'Ashrawi, said the discussions in Tunis were over differences of opinion between the PLO leadership and her group over procedural and political issues as well as problems related to the performance of the peace team itself.

"Very frank and open self-criticism was aimed at better performance and greater efficiency," she told the JORDAN TIMES on Friday.

In private, delegates complain that they had been treated as mailmen and messengers between the PLO leadership and the U.S. or Israel. Lack of consultation and contradictory orders from the Tunis-based leadership confused the delegation and triggered general discontent at the way they were treated. Many said they were not convinced of some orders they were expected to carry out.

However, the integration of Palestinians from the occupied territories in the PLO's decision-making structure could lead to more active participation in decisions and in enacting long-called for reforms in the PLO, but only if the mixed committee functioned properly.

The working plan outlining relations between the "inside" and the "outside" that was endorsed by the PLO's Executive Committee in line with a proposal by the delegation aims at defining the functions of the leadership and delegation in the peace talks as well as in the occupied territories.

"The delegation's proposals to the leadership stemmed from the need to improve the Palestinian political system and the decision- making, mechanism in order to incorporate the Palestinian political society inside the occupied territories which is growing in importance," peace delegate Ghassan Al Khatib told the JORDAN TIMES. Dr. 'Ashrawi said that by issuing calls for collective leadership and consultations "we are simply trying to do justice to segments of the Palestinian community."

Calls for collective leadership and democratic reforms have been spearheaded by chief peace negotiator Haydar 'Abd al-Shafi, who warned against further Palestinian political divisions and predicted the ultimate collapse of the PLO if Palestinians pursued negotiations without unity or democratic reforms.

Although the crisis had highlighted differences between the diaspora and the Palestinian leadership inside the occupied territories, the real issues at stake were not geographic.

Some officials argued that a well-defined decision-making mechanism and improved relations with the local leaders could well solve outstanding problems because Palestinians are not in the business of seeking an alternative leadership.

They said that if Israel talked to the PLO, the delegation would have more confidence in itself and the PLO would stop using alternative communication channels.

"It is likely that direct talks between the PLO and Israel will take place soon," Dr. 'Ashrawi said. "The PLO is the representative of the Palestinian people, it is the people's national dimension and identity."

The PLO has publicly been guiding the delegation in the 21-month-old peace talks, but Israel has only recently lifted a ban on PLO contacts, especially since Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's Labour Party ousted the hard line Likud party of former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. But Mr. Rabin still insists on negotiating only with Palestinians from the occupied territories, although members of his coalition government are known to have met PLO officials over the past few months.

Negotiator Outlines Strategy for Talks To End Crises

JN1408115393 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 14 Aug 93 p 45

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] A Palestinian negotiator stated that the recent Palestinian crises, including the resignations of some negotiators, the statements by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, and the suspension of participation in recent rounds of peace talks by some delegates to the Arab-Israeli peace talks are all manifestations of the deadlock reached on the Palestinian track. These developments also reflect inappropriate Arab coordination, the Palestinian negotiator said .

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, Palestinian delegate Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib went on to say that the essence of the major hurdle lies with Israeli positions, which oppose withdrawal and attempt to submerge the negotiations in functional and service issues, steering them away from the provisions enshrined in Resolution 242. Israel, Dr. al-Khatib contended, has also continued to make changes on the ground in the occupied territories, such as building settlements and maintaining the closure of Jerusalem—developments that are overburdening the Palestinians.

Dr. al-Khatib said that this has been coupled with an increasing U.S. bias toward the Israeli position. The most obvious manifestation of this bias, he noted, has been the U.S. espousal of the early empowerment idea, which is replacing the essential issue; namely, withdrawal in return for peace.

Dr. al-Khatib said this crisis could be resolved if the Palestinian position is unified around a Palestinian strategy grounded in the following pillars:

- Refusal to get sidetracked by marginal issues, such as the powers of an interim government, and emphasis on the implementation of Resolution 242.
- Refusal to get sidetracked by drafts, counterdrafts, and formulations because it could produce amendments to the Palestinian position—something that would erode our political position.
- Unification of the channels of communication and refusal to get sidetracked by the use of alternate channels. Most of the alternate channels are unofficial and meant to extract concessions from the Palestinians.
- Refusal to get sidetracked by unofficial insinuations designed to tempt the Palestinian side to follow

mirages, such as Israeli statements on the Gaza First option.
- Enhanced coordination with the Jordanian side.

Dr. al-Khatib also reiterated the need to coordinate with the concerned Arab sides, especially in light of recent developments, which have registered a retreat in this regard. This coordination has turned into a tool to pressure the Palestinians instead of serving as an asset aiding their endeavors. And here, he added, we would like to note that the issue of implementing the UN Security Council resolutions on the occupied Palestinian territories, particularly Jerusalem, is a joint Arab responsibility because the Palestine question has always been, historically speaking, linked to Arab developments and positions. Right now, the Americans and Israelis are attempting to single out the Palestinians to weaken them and to fragment the Arab position. As regards Resolution 242, it is the common denominator on all tracks of negotiations. It addresses all occupied Arab territories uniformly.

Dr. al-Khatib went on to say: The adoption of such a unified strategy would close Palestinian ranks and end the confusion that has recently plagued the Palestinians. On the other hand, organizationally speaking, some developments must be taken into account by the Palestinians. The most important of these developments is that the Palestinian political system and the Palestinian decision making bodies must accommodate political bodies and figures in the occupied territories, which are playing an increasingly more powerful role in the political arena. The old style of participation of these bodies and figures in political life, as well as their old relationship with the political leadership have now become a thing of the past.

PLO Official Meets Palestinian Negotiators in Jerusalem

NC1608110793 Paris AFP in English 1036 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Aug 16 (AFP)—A PLO official met members of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks in Jerusalem for the first time on Monday [16 August], Palestinian officials said.

Hasan 'Abd-al-Rahman, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's representative in Canada, arrived in the occupied West Bank a week ago on receiving an entry permit from the Israeli military authorities after his mother died.

"I made my intention to meet the delegation officially known to them," he said before the talks began. "The meeting will discuss the peace process and preparation for the 11th session of bilateral negotiations (with Israel)."

The next round of bilateral Arab-Israeli peace talks begins August 30 in Washington.

'Abd-al-Rahman, head of the PLO information centre in Washington from 1974 to 1992, is due to become one of the chief advisers of the Palestinian delegation at the bilateral talks.

Israel has said it will continue to talk to the Palestinian delegation, even though the PLO designated its members as its representatives at a meeting in Tunis last week.

The Jewish state has insisted [since] the peace process began in 1991 that the Palestinian negotiators came from within the occupied territories and that none of its members were PLO activists.

After a meeting last week to sort out differences between the delegation and the exiled PLO leadership in Tunis, the delegation members became part of a committee overseeing the negotiations, headed by Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, a member of the organisation's executive committee.

Egypt

Defendants in Former Speaker's Murder Trial Acquitted

Evidence Obtained Through 'Torture'

NC1408140593 Paris AFP in English 1316 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Report by Lamia Radi]

[Text] Cairo, Aug 14 (AFP)—An Egyptian court on Saturday acquitted all 27 Islamic militants charged in connection with the 1990 assassination of parliamentary speaker Rif'at al-Mahjub.

The High State Security Court acquitted all after excluding evidence obtained through torture but it sentenced 10 of them to jail terms ranging from three years to 15 years for carrying weapons and forged papers.

Muhammad al-Najjar, who was sentenced to 15 years in prison on the lesser charges, confessed to the October 12, 1990 assassination, but the court threw it out saying it was extracted under torture.

While the family of the 27 accused reacted with joy to the civil court's verdict, the state prosecutor vowed to appeal the case.

The defense lawyer, Nabil al-Hilali, said justice had been done but said he feared "the president of the republic will never ratify these sentences. They are too lenient."

President Husni Mubarak in October ordered the transfer of trials of Muslim militants from civilian to military courts, where the proceedings move more quickly and sentences are usually harsher.

The military courts have passed 21 death sentences, seven in absentia, since December, and 15 militants have been hanged since June. The High State Security Court, a civilian court, sentenced a militant to death in May.

The trial of those implicated in al-Mahjub's assassination began on June 10, 1991. Military courts trying Muslim militants, by contrast, have taken only a few weeks to issue their verdicts.

The civilian court also ignored evidence obtained through torture.

It said al-Najjar, the only one to confess, did so "through fear and torture," having seen his comrade die before him while he was shot in the neck the moment he was arrested.

The presiding judge, Wahid Mahmud, said that "al-Najjar was kept alive only to serve the needs of the police."

"The main defendant, Mamduh 'Ali Yusuf, was tortured to the point of no longer being able to stand on his feet ... Not one detainee had escaped torture," he said.

"These barbaric methods caused a kind of paralysis in one of the defendants. They received electric shocks in their intimate parts, they were whipped and they were hung up by their feet or by their hands to extract confessions."

He added that Egyptian justice could not accept confessions based on torture, which he said "was proof of the failure and impotence of the police to discover the truth."

The court also said the main witnesses did not recognize any of the defendants.

10 Sentenced on Lesser Charges

NC1408111993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Aug (MENA)—The Higher State Security Court-Emergency today issued its ruling in the case of the assassination of former People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub. The case involves 27 defendants, eight of whom are fugitives.

The court sentenced defendant Muhammad Ahmad 'Ali, alias Muhammad al-Najjar, to 15 years in prison with hard labor, and defendant Muhammad Sayyid 'Abd-al-Jawad to 10 years with hard labor. It also sentenced defendants Mamduh 'Ali Yusuf and 'Uthman Jabir Mahmud to seven years each with hard labor.

'Adil Sayyid Sha'ban and Safwat 'Abd-al-Ghani were each sentenced to five years with hard labor. Ibrahim Isma'il 'Abd-al-Majid and Diya'-al-Din Da'ud were sentenced to five years each.

Hamid 'Abd-al-'Al and Hani Yusuf al-Shadhili were each sentenced to three years. The court acquitted 17 other defendants.

The acquitted defendants are: 'Isam Ahmad 'Abd-al-Jawad, 'Ala' Muhammad Abu-al-Nasr, 'Abd-al-Nasir Nuh Ahmad, 'Izzat Husayn Muhammad Husayn, 'Asim 'Ali al-Sayyid, Ahmad Mustafa Nawwar, 'Adil Hammad Faraj, 'Abd-al-Muhsin 'Abbas, Muhammad Mustafa Zaki, Ahmad Mustafa Zaki, Hasan Muhammad Husayn, 'Adil 'Id Sharif, Jamal Isma'il Shamardal, Ibrahim Yasin Mahmud Rabi', 'Ali Muhammad al-Buhayri, Muhammad Muntasir 'Abd-al-Hamid, and Numayr Nasr 'Abd-al-Mawjud.

Judiciary Source: Retrial Possible

NC1408115493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Aug (MENA)—A reliable judiciary source has told MENA that the public prosecutor's office is currently studying the ruling which was issued today by the Higher State Security Court-Emergency in the

case of the assassination of former People's Assembly speaker, Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub.

The source said that the public prosecutor's office will ask for the repeal of the ruling and a retrial of the defendants in another court jurisdiction if it is shown that the ruling included legal mistakes.

Trial of 'Vanguards of Conquest' Opens in Cairo

NC1508151693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1432 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 Aug (MENA)—The Supreme Military Court today [15 August] began the trial of the first group of defendants in the case of the reorganization of the al-Jihad Organization. The group, better known as the Vanguards of Conquest [Tala'i' al-Fath], includes 53 defendants, seven of whom are still at large.

The trial opened amid strict security at the military court hall in Haikestep under Major General Muhammad Wajdi al- Laythi. The trial was attended by the imprisoned defendants, their relatives, and Arab and foreign news agency correspondents.

At the outset of the session, which lasted four hours, the court chairman warned the defendants against rioting and shouting slogans inside the dock. He threatened to expel them from the court's hall if they continued to obstruct the court's proceedings.

The court chairman affirmed that the court will follow constitutional and legal measures and will allow the defendants and their lawyers to present their defense. Those proven innocent will be acquitted and those proven guilty will be convicted.

The court chairman said that the court will allow all the defendants to speak. He asked them not to speak from inside the dock. He also ordered that food be given to them.

Before the beginning of the session, the defendants shouted slogans and raised placards calling for revenge for the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The court chairman ordered that these placards be removed and that order be maintained throughout the session.

MENA Reports Hijacking; Motives 'Not Yet Known'

NC1508172693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] Duesseldorf, 15 Aug (MENA)—A Boeing 737 Netherlands airliner, which was hijacked earlier today [15 August] on a flight from Tunis to Amsterdam, landed today at Duesseldorf airport.

A spokesman for the German police said that the hijacked airliner landed at Duesseldorf airport where the hijackers allowed a number of passengers and some crew members to leave the plane. Three crew members and the hijackers—their number is as yet unknown—stayed on the plane.

The spokesman said police negotiations are taking place with the hijackers, who speak Arabic. At the same time, security sources said that the hijackers want to continue their flight to New York.

The airliner was carrying 131 passengers in addition to its crew consisting of seven people. The motives and identity of the hijackers are not yet known. In addition, the hijackers have not made any demands.

Demands of KLM Hijacker Noted

NC1608045693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] At dawn today, German police ended the hijacking of the Netherlands plane that landed at Duesseldorf's airport while on a flight from Tunis to Amsterdam. The incident ended without bloodshed or casualties, and the hijacker has been arrested. He had given a final ultimatum to blow up the plane by 1000 today if his demands had not been met. He demanded to fly to New York or Sweden, and also demanded the release of one of those involved in the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York.

It should be mentioned that the hijacker released 131 passengers yesterday and held the plane crew hostage. The German police deployed a number of snipers in various parts of the airport in preparation for a possible armed intervention.

Hijacker Said Egyptian

NC1608071293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0601 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] Duesseldorf, 16 Aug (MENA)—Early this morning, German police arrested the man who hijacked a Netherlands plane yesterday afternoon and forced it to land at Duesseldorf's airport while on a flight from Tunis to Amsterdam.

German police sources said the hijacker is Egyptian. When he entered the plane's toilet, the two remaining hostages—the pilot and a steward—escaped from the plane, without the hijacker seeing them, by climbing from a rope outside the cockpit. The antiterrorist police arrested the hijacker. He had held the plane for 10 hours.

Police found no weapons or explosives with the hijacker, who, leading the pilot and his assistants to believe that he was armed, had forced the pilot to land in Duesseldorf instead of in Amsterdam.

There are conflicting reports about the hijacker's connection with the Islamic groups in Tunisia, who might have facilitated his boarding the plane. According to some other reports, the hijacker carried out the operation by himself to demand the release of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd al-Rahman, currently held in New York.

German police are expected to hold a press conference at noon today to explain the incident.

Editorial: U.S. Action in Somalia 'Untenable'

NC1508065193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 15 Aug 93

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AKHBAR, in an editorial entitled "President Mubarak's Efforts To End Somalia's Tragedy," says that it is unacceptable and untenable for the United States to engage in unilateral military intervention in the African Republic of Somalia, even if this is being done under the UN flag, without taking into account the fact that Somalia is a member of a major regional organization comprising over 50 countries. The scope and intensity of the military operations launched by the U.S. forces in Somalia is increasing by the day, AL-AKHBAR remarks.

The newspaper adds: President Husni Mubarak, who is the current OAU chairman, is aware that it is necessary to rectify this unusual sidestepping of the OAU. The OAU's Charter, AL-AKHBAR writes, calls for that organization to make efforts to settle all the conflicts involving its members and to help the African countries resolve their internal and external problems.

The paper says: Therefore, it has been decided to send Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa at the end of this week on a tour of six African countries, during which he will deliver special messages from President Mubarak to the leaders of these countries as part of the extensive consultations that Mubarak is holding with African leaders to end the rapid deterioration of the situation in Somalia.

Mubarak Message Delivered to Tunisia's Ben Ali

NC1308193193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] President Mubarak has sent a written message to Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali concerning ways to bolster joint African action within the framework of the OAU. The Tunisian president received the message when he received Egyptian ambassador Ibrahim 'Allam today.

Following the meeting, 'Allam remarked that the message is part of the consultations and exchanges between the two presidents on African issues and their efforts to support the OAU so that it can perform its duty in the service of joint African action.

'Allam added that the message deals with the issue of developing an African mechanism to resolve inter-African disputes peacefully, in implementation of the recent OAU summit held in Cairo in early June.

Libya

UN Decision on Sanctions Draws Reaction

Decision Said Under Study

LD1408185893 Tripoli JANA in English 1842 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 14, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—JANA has learned from a source at the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation that the Secretariat is at present studying the decision taken by the Security Council last night [13 August] and the statements of the three Western countries. The Secretariat will issue, in due course, a statement expressing its stance in this respect.

'Strong Displeasure' Registered

LD1508212293 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] The Popular Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation has issued the following statement:

The Popular Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation expresses its strong displeasure at the continuation of the sanctions which have been imposed on the Libyan Arab people, despite the differing viewpoints during the consultations which took place among the members of the Council [UN Security Council, UNSC]. This confirms that the measures which had been taken by the Great Socialist Peoples' Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the initiatives it had put forward to implement UNSC Resolution 731 of 1992 had been met with response and welcome inside the UNSC itself. This contradicts the rigid attitudes of the three Western powers, who ignored all the practical measures which the great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah had taken in order to implement the Resolution 731 of 1992.

Despite the continuing suffering of the Libyan Arab people as a result of the effects of the sanctions imposed on them by the implementation of the harsh Resolution Number 748 of 1992 , the Great Jamahiriyah has not ceased its efforts nor spared any means to affirm its desire to act justly and to abide by international law. The Great Jamahiriyah has carried out its efforts within the framework of constructive dialogue and understanding, avoiding threatening language, and it expected that this would lead to lifting the sanctions imposed against it.

Despite all this, the People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation reaffirms the following:

1. The Great Jamahiriyah is committed to Resolution 731 of 1992 in all its aspects. It informed the secretary general [of the UNSC] of all the measures it had taken to implement the Resolution. It also cooperated with the secretary general and his envoys in a positive manner,

out of its respect for international legitimacy and out of its desire to arrive at a peaceful solution to the crisis—a solution which respects the interest of all sides. This contradicts what was stated in the statement made by the three Western powers which accused the Jamahiriyah of challenging the UNSC.

2. In response to the request to cooperate with Britain regarding the organizations which it [Britain] accused of terrorism, Britain had officially confirmed its satisfaction with that cooperation.

3. Also, it has shown its complete readiness to cooperate with the French judiciary. The Great Jamahiriyah is still engaged in a dialogue with the French authorities regarding the arrival of the judge, who is entrusted with the dossier to the Great Jamahiriyah, and who wishes to complete his investigations. It is hoped that this will take place as soon as possible.

4. The Great Jamahiriyah accepts that those who are suspects must be brought to trial, and it is ready to discuss the place where that trial could be held so that it can be a just and honest trial.

5. The Great Jamahiriyah affirmed that the three Western powers have returned to the language of threat and blackmail, as indicated by their last statement. This does not serve the aim which the UN has been endeavoring to realize. This aim is: To solve the disputes between states by peaceful means and with respect for the international laws and conventions; by taking care of the sovereignty of states. This is represented by the language of serious dialogue between the parties in the dispute in order to arrive at peaceful solutions acceptable to all sides. This represents a first step; this is what all the regional and international organizations have been calling for—especially the Arab League, the OAU [Organization of Arab Unity], the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], the Nonaligned Movement Organization, and others.

Also, it does not serve the interests of the families of the victims. Therefore, it [Libya] declares before the international public that it is completely prepared to sit at the dialogue table with the parties concerned and with UNSC for the purpose of peacefully arriving at a solution to the crisis; a solution which serves the interests of all the parties.

The Great Jamahiriyah is operating in the face of the three Western powers' denial of all the measures the Great Jamahiriyah had taken to implement what Resolution 731 of 1992 had asked it to do, and it is operating under its own refusal to see its people continue to suffer from those sanctions for a long time. In light of this, it requests the secretary general and the UNSC to define a mechanism for reaching an understanding and a definition of the demands made by Resolution 731, dated 1992, and of the measures the Jamahiriyah has taken to implement it, so that the UNSC can be satisfied that the Great Jamahiriyah has fulfilled all of its obligations. This is a matter which makes the continued sanctions on its people an injustice; this is high-handedness which does not find anyone who will support it among the members of the UNSC or among the entire international community.

It is astonishing that the three Western powers should give, in their aforementioned statement, only a few weeks to solve a problem of this size, which, as per their admission, has taken long years of investigation and research and has not resulted in anything except doubtfulness.

JANA Commentator's Statement

LD1408214693 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] At the session of unofficial consultations between United Nations' Security Council members last night, the U.S. delegate to the UN—who is president of the current session of the Security Council—said that after listening to the views which had been expressed during the consultations, the Security Council president had concluded that there is no consensus that the present circumstances are in favor of amending the coercive measures imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah as a result of the Security Council Resolution 748.

The JANA local affairs commentator made the following comment:

At the time the Libyan Arab people were expecting the Security Council to lift the coercive measures which had been imposed on them unjustly as a result of the unacceptable Resolution 748, which had caused and still causes every day extreme human and material harm and losses, the Security Council had made another allowance—which is contrary to collective, international will—by announcing an extension of these coercive measures. The Council has done this despite the fact that the world, its governments, international groups, and regional organizations understand this [to be an] injustice which has fallen upon the Libyan Arab people. This is also in spite of the fact that the Nonaligned Movement Organization, which includes 108 states as members, the Organization of African Unity, with 52 members, the Islamic Conference Organization, the Arab League, and the State of the Vatican support the just stand of the Great Jamahiriyah. The Security Council has persisted in passing these measures despite the fact that two states—China and India, who represent two thirds of the world's population—have rejected these measures.

The editor affirmed that the Libyan Arab people can only interpret this announcement as confirming a truth which has become clear before the world. Namely, that the Security Council has submitted to the pressures of the major powers. Consequently, the Resolution of the Security Council is, in actuality, a Resolution by three states who are members of the Security Council and who are parties to the case between the Great Jamahiriyah and those states in question.

The editor affirmed that the release of this three-sided statement, like the statement of the Security Council, implies a threat. It also shows the pressure those states have been applying to the Security Council on the one hand, and on the other hand it reveals the method of threats which those states [have utilized], proving that they have not abandoned these methods in their dealing with the crisis between them and the Great Jamahiriyah. The Great Jamahiriyah has frequently called for solving this crisis by engaging in dialogue, by using the existing international framework of laws and charters, and by subscribing to the dictates of national sovereignty. This is a platform which was adopted in dealing with the Security Council Resolution 731. The Great Jamahiriyah showed its readiness to cooperate in implementing this resolution in a civilized manner. Its efforts were met with: international praise, the strengthened support of the peoples, governments, and international organizations of the world for the Great Jamahiriyah, and the call of these on the Security Council to reexamine its unjust resolution to impose coercive measures on the Libyan Arab people. Indeed, they have called for these measures to finally be lifted.

Sudan

Government on 'Double Standards' in Peace Effort

EA1508194093 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj Muhammad, the minister of the Federal Government Office and official government spokesman on the peace negotiations, has announced that investigative contacts are currently taking place between Khartoum and Kampala on the possibility of resuming the negotiations between the government and the delegation of Garang's wing of the rebel movement. His excellency stated that contacts between Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir and Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni began during the recent African summit in Cairo and had continued since. He said they might soon lead to a meeting between the government and the rebels.

Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj said during a press conference that the government was totally convinced of the need to resolve the problem, but that foreign intervention and the double standards applied by the American Administration were obstructing the peace efforts. He said his recent visits to Germany and the United States had concentrated on three major issues, these being ther peace (?efforts), the second round of Abuja negotiations and American accusations against Sudan of involvement in terrorism and of human rights violations.

He said that they had set out Sudan's views and submitted their evaluation of the reports being put out by the opposition, the rebels and organizations that excluded Sudan's points of view. His excellency expressed amazement at the position adopted by the American Congress towards the [words indistinct], saying that the American Congress had adopted an untenable attitude. The American Administration, through its ambassador in Khartoum, had expressed its support for the peace efforts in Sudan, only then to espouse Garang's idea about establishing safe havens and introducing foreign intervention to violate Sudan's sovereignty. Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj referred to the idea Sudan had put forward to the American Administration about safe havens to include Malakal and Bor to open the way to sending relief supplies to other areas in need. He said the American Administration had promised to look into the matter, but had not so far replied.

His excellency went on to talk about the demand made by a number of American congressmen that the government should negotiate with the rebel factions under the congressmen's auspices, but this demand had been rejected by the government, which stressed that it was adhering to the cease-fire except in cases where it was a matter of self-defense.

Armed Forces Spokesman Denies Reports of Bombings

EA1408191093 Khartoum SUNA in English 1805 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Aug (SUNA)—The spokesman of the Armed Forces issued on Saturday [14 August] a statement refuting the allegations made by the international mass media, particularly the British Broadcasting Corporation, BBC, that the Sudanese Army Forces have bombarded Morobo, Kaia, and Nimalli areas in southern Sudan. The statement said that these repeated allegations are an intentional campaign against the Sudan and that these media are well aware that the said areas are controlled by the rebel movement, as Garang acknowledged in his statement.

The Army forces is bound by the cease-fire, but Garang's faction violated it by attacking the Army forces and obstructing their administrative movement and looting reliefs barges, the statement read. It stressed the role of the Army forces in protecting citizens and delivery relief to them.

The statement went on to say that Garang took advantage of the cease-fire to prepare and train his troops to continue aggression against [words indistinct].

The statement added that the humane conduct of the Army forces attested to all organizations involved in relief operations only the special envoy of the United Nations for humanitarian affairs during his recent visit to Sudan.

The statement said that the Army forces support peace, see no solution in war, but at the same time uphold the right to defend their soldiers and equipments against dan. [as received]

United Rebel Faction Blames Garang for Fighting

AB1508200993 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] The unified faction of the rebel movement has asserted that peace in the country could be achieved from within the country, saying that the Fashoda negotiations held between the movement and a government delegation had been an extension of the Nairobi negotiations between the government delegation and the movement in April.

A statement issued by the unified faction in Nairobi recently in reaction to Garang's condemnation of the Fashoda negotiations said Garang had been neither trustworthy nor consistent when his faction and the Sudanese Army called for the holding of meetings to arrive at peace in the south.

The statement referred to the fighting between the rebel factions in the Kongor, Ayod, and Waat Triangle, which had led to the deaths and displacement of innocent civilians and the halting of relief operations. The statement blamed Garang's faction for that fighting and accused him of violating disarmament agreements concluded between the conflicting sides last May and June.

The statement also described Garang's dictatorial methods.

Al-Bashir Claims Victory Over Garang Forces

EA1408201593 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0443 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Continuing the news, ladies and gentlemen, we present a speech by Lieutenant General Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and Council of Ministers and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, on the occasion of today's celebration of Armed Forces Day.

[Begin Bashir recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] Garang has been defeated in the battlefields despite his weapons and equipment. The rebels dispersed from around him and his movement was torn apart because he forgot the concerns of the homeland and yielded to his whims and the whims of the agents who want to humiliate this nation and force it to retreat to serve their cheap worldly purposes. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Kuwait

National Assembly Speaker To Visit Tehran 18 Aug

LD1508122793 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1138 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 15 Aug (KUNA)—A National Assembly delegation led by 'Ahmad al-Sa'dun, the speaker of the National Assembly, will leave next Wednesday [18 August] on a visit to the Iranian capital Tehran at the official invitation of Ali Nateq-Nuri, the speaker of the Iranian parliament. [passage omitted]

Suspension of Unofficial Groups Provokes Protests

PM1608113493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Aug 93 p 2

[Nasir al-Mutayri report: "Suspension of Popular Organizations in Kuwait Presages Eruption of Crisis Between Government and Parliament"]

[Excerpts] Kuwait—Kuwaiti Social Affairs and Labor Minister Jasim al-'Awn's decision to suspend the activities of popular associations and committees which are not officially licensed has provoked negative reactions in popular circles. Observers said yesterday that the decision will be a possible point of confrontation between the government and parliament in Kuwait, especially as there are many of these associations and committees, which performed and continue to perform humanitarian activities for various causes, especially the issue of Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraqi jails. Besides, these associations have been seeking to obtain official licenses for their work, and the National Assembly does not oppose their work. The minister reemphasized that the decision is final and irrevocable, and that it has nothing to do with popular action, which the government is working to reinforce. [passage omitted]

Some members of these associations and committees have expressed their discontent at the social affairs and labor minister's decision to suspend their humanitarian activities. They emphasized that their work plays a major role in reinforcing Kuwait's international reputation as regards human rights and support for popular action. Mubarak al-'Udwani, a columnist who works for these popular committees, said that "the government says that the prisoners issue is Kuwait's priority issue and that it is doing its utmost to secure the release of the prisoners and determine the fate of those missing, but on the third anniversary of the invasion it issues a decision suspending the activities of all popular organizations, whose efforts are indispensable in this sphere." Al-'Udwani said that the government's step "undermines one of the components of democracy and political pluralism."

Minister Jasim al-'Awn emphasized yesterday that the decision to suspend these unlicensed associations and committees in Kuwait was final and irrevocable. He stressed that they should be dissolved. In a statement yesterday he attributed the decision to their violation of the law, emphasizing that this is the main and real reason. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Iranian 'Biased Campaigns' Against Rights Abuses Viewed

LD1408131893 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Riyadh, 26 Aug (SPA)—Commenting on the untrue allegations and fabrications relayed by Tehran radio, in its midday talk program, which was broadcast last Wednesday [11 August], the SPA political editor writes the following:

Whenever we try to overlook the biased campaigns against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which are broadcast every now and then through the Iranian media, hoping that these media will take the initiative to correct their information and because we follow the directives of our wise leadership not to reply to the bickerings of the media, the Iranian media very regrettably deliberately broadcasts more fabricated news such as the item relayed by Tehran radio in the midday talk two days ago.

The editor adds: It is strange that the Iranian media adopts this unpleasant method against the Kingdom while the Iranian authorities declare their continuous eagerness to improve relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. If the Iranian intentions are sincere in this eagerness, we do not believe that this media line is the correct way to achieve it. On the basis of its firm policy, the Kingdom refuses interference in its internal affairs just as it does not resolve on its part to interfere in others' affairs.

The political editor says at the end of his commentary: With regard to what was mentioned by Tehran radio about legitimate human rights, the Kingdom—which since coming into existence has established its rule on the teachings of the Islamic faith and has adhered to them in text and in spirit in a way conducive to protecting human rights in all matters of man's life—does not attach any importance to anyone who attempts to make insinuations from this radio station. The Kingdom knows the motives behind those attempts.

'Smear' Policy Criticized

LD1508132593 Riyadh SPA in English 1232 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Riyadh, Aug 15, SPA—Saudi newspapers commented editorially today on Iran's relations with member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the need for the Islamic states to generate world support for Bosnian Moslems in the light of an OIC [Islamic Conference Organization] team's meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Washington last Friday to discuss the Bosnian crisis.

The Jeddah-based 'UKAZ, commenting on Iranian-Gulf relations, said the Gulf countries, specially the Gulf Cooperation Council states, had welcomed the statements of Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in which he had reaffirmed his country's adherence to the policy of respect and joint cooperation with Iran's neighbors and a complete termination of the policy of adventures which had been practiced on several occasions by Iran, in turn, spoiling its relations with world states.

The rational language of the statements of Rafsanjani and other Iranian officials had not been reflected in the Iranian mass media, which is still engaged in following the policy of defamation and fabrications to smear others, 'UKAZ said.

The paper said the Iranian newspapers and radio had deliberately insulted the Kingdom and poked its nose in the domestic affairs of the Kingdom—an attitude which is regrettable because Riyadh does not accept any interference in its domestic affairs from anyone and at the same refrains from interfering in the domestic affairs of others.

This double standard or the policy of divisional roles will not help in improving bilateral relations, it added. [passage omitted]

Prince Sultan Receives UK Ambassador 14 Aug

LD1408155993 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and the inspector general, received in his office in Jeddah this afternoon David Gore-Booth, the British Ambassador to the Kingdom.

King Donates Money to Transport Bosnian Child

LD1308221493 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2145 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Excerpt] London, 13 Aug (SPA)—Out of the desire of the Government of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, to contribute toward lessening the suffering and pain of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Kingdom has made a financial contribution to the value of 100,000 pounds sterling to cover part of the expenses of transporting the Bosnian child Irma to Britain to be treated. [passage omitted]

King Appoints Secretary General of Consultative Council

LD1408174093 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1605 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Jeddah, 14 Aug (SPA)—A royal decree has been issued. The following is the text: In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Number A/12 Date 26 Safar 1414 AH. With God's help, We, Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, monarch of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: After taking cognizance of Article 58 of the Basic Law of Government which was announced by Royal Decree A/90 on 27 Sha'ban 1412 AH; after taking cognizance of Article 1 of the Consultative Council [Majlis al-Shurah] Law which was announced by Royal Decree A/91 on 27 Sha'ban 1412 AH; after taking cognizance of the statutes of ministers, deputy ministers, and higher ranking officials which was announced by Royal Decree number M/10 on 18 Rabi' al-Ulah 1391 AH; we have ordered the following:

First: Dr. Hamud Bin-'Abd al-Aziz Bin-'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Badr has been appointed secretary general of the Consultative Council with the rank of first class.

Second: Our order is to be conveyed to competent authorities who should implement it.

'Source' Denies Reported Death of King's Son

LD1508230093 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2230 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] A responsible source in a statement to SPA said that the report broadcast this evening by London radio [not further identified] in its evening bulletin about the death of one of the sons of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, is not true. The source added: The person who died following a heart attack was Prince Mohamed Bin 'Abdullah Bin Sa'ud Bin 'Abd al-'Aziz [grandson of the late King Sa'ud Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz] who was on a private visit to Tanzania. We pray that God have mercy on his soul and forgive his sins.

United Arab Emirates

Official Views Dialogue With Iran, Denies Mediation Report

LD1608092293 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0814 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 16 Aug (KUNA)—Ambassador Sayf al-Sa'id, acting under secretary of the Foreign Ministry of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], reaffirmed his country's stance here today. This stance calls for the solution of the issue of the Three Islands [Greater and

Lesser Tunbs and Abu Musa] by way of bilateral negotiations and direct dialogue with Iran, without there being a need for a mediator. This assertion is regarded as a denial of some press reports that appeared two days ago on the existence of a Maghreban mediation effort to solve this dispute over Abu Musa island between the UAE and Iran . In an exclusive statement with KUNA, Ambassador al-Sa'id said that the UAE believes in solving its disputes with Iran by peaceful means and in establishing direct dialogue through bilateral negotiations without resorting to any mediation in this matter. He stressed that the UAE has not requested any country to mediate in this issue. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Saudi Team Arrives for 5th Round of Border Talks

JN1508132193 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Members of the Saudi side in the joint Yemeni-Saudi border committee arrived in the city of Ta'izz this afternoon. Brother Dr. Matlab al-Faqih leads the Saudi team, which will attend the fifth round of border talks. [passage omitted]

Opposition Reports 'Dozens' Arrested After Failed Coup

JN1408072993 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0430 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Within the framework of the arrest campaigns that the regime of dictator Saddam carries out against the sons of the Iraqi people, informed sources have stated that [word indistinct] and dozens of civilians and soldiers were recently arrested by the despot for having participated in a coup to liquidate Saddam.

The sources said those arrested are from (Kisrah), [word indistinct], and Mosul.

The sources from outside the homeland reported that Sa'd Salih Jabr, head of the Free Iraqi Council, said that a member of the Iraqi National Assembly named Jasir Miflih al-Tikriti, as well as Brigadier General Sufyan Salih al-Ghurayri, the commander of the tank battalion at the Presidential Palace, and Raji 'Allaf al-Tikriti, who is responsible for medical affairs in the Republican Guard, are among those who were detained in connection with the recent coup.

This unsuccessful coup is just one of a long string of coup attempts against the criminal Saddamist regime.

Further on Reported Arrest Campaign

NC1408150093 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Reports from Baghdad say that a new widescale arrest campaign is in full swing among circles close to the ruling regime. These reports noted the arrest of Majid Adham, one of the people close to Barzan al-Takriti, and Safar Mawlud Mukhlis and his uncle Jasim Mukhlis, who are relatives of Hardan al-Takriti, the former Iraqi vice president who was killed by Saddam's henchmen in Kuwait. Also arrested was Taha al-Juburi, a former intelligence officer, and scores of military men of various ranks.

It is well known that there is great dissatisfaction among the Army ranks and inside the ruling institution as a result of the deteriorating standards of security and economy in Iraq, and that the regime does not care about the tragic state the Iraqi people are living in under its despicable regime.

Rebels Report Assassination Attempt on Interior Minister

NC1308171993 Paris AFP in English 1612 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] Nicosia, Aug 13 (AFP)—Iraqi opposition gunmen tried to kill Saddam Husayn's interior minister as his motorcade drove through Baghdad last month, the opposition said.

Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan, who is also Saddam's half-brother, "escaped unharmed but several bodyguards and members of his entourage were killed," the opposition's AL-MU'TAMAR newspaper said in a copy obtained in Cyprus Friday [13 August].

Gunmen opened fire on the motorcade as it drove down Palestine Street in central Baghdad on July 10, according to Thursday's edition of the weekly which the Iraqi National Congress publishes in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq.

"A large number of innocent people" were arrested by Iraqi authorities following the shooting, it added.

Dollars Reportedly Earned by Selling Gasoline to Kurds

NC1508125493 Paris AFP in English 1229 GMT 15 Aug 93

[By Lissy Schmidt]

[Text] Irbil, Iraq, Aug 15 (AFP)—Saddam Husayn's sanctions-hit government is raising its reserves of dollars by selling gasoline to Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq, Kurdish officials and businessmen said here.

A Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) leader said the move was also designed to weaken the economy of the region, which Baghdad lost control of after its defeat in the 1991 Gulf war, by siphoning off foreign currency reserves.

Since a contract was signed with two Kurdish companies last week, Iraq's Sadira Company has shipped eight million liters (1.7 million gallons) of petrol and diesel from Kirkuk to al-Sulaymaniyah, company managers Abu-Bakir 'Abd-al-Rahman and Khayrullah Salih told AFP.

The contract is for 40 million liters (10.4 million gallons) and more contracts are possible, a PUK official in al-Sulaymaniyah, Jamal 'Aziz, said. There was no dollar figure for the value of the contract.

Baghdad made the offer to sell gasoline for dollars shortly after it suspended negotiations last month with the United Nations aimed at allowing the export of limited quantities of oil under U.N. supervision, the officials said. United Nations sanctions imposed after Iraq's August 2, 1990 invasion of Kuwait banned all exports of Iraqi oil.

'Aziz, the PUK leader in al-Sulaymaniyah, said: "We are happy with any opportunities to resolve the fuel problem for the coming winter. But for the moment, we are not so happy about the actual practice. The fuel paid in dollars is too expensive. People still cannot afford to buy it," 'Aziz told AFP. "The Iraqi Government made this offer because of a lack of foreign currency on their own market and also to get dollars out of the Kurdish region," he said.

"This sort of trade will raise the value of the dollar and so fuel will get even more expensive. A second question is the amount of Iraqi money available here in the

Kurdish region to cover that business," he said. "If a second contract will be signed after that first 40 millions liters in fuel will have been purchased, we'll have to also use Iraqi (notes) to cover the costs," he said.

Earlier this year, Baghdad delivered a severe economic blow to Kurdish areas when it cancelled 25-dinar notes printed abroad and prevented those outside government-controlled areas from cashing in the notes. The move was also apparently designed to shore up the weak Iraqi dinar.

The so-called "Swiss notes" had a higher value than those printed in Baghdad and were used in trade with Turkey, Jordan and other countries.

Fears remain that Baghdad may also cancel foreign-printed notes of other denominations.

Paper Reports Eight People Killed in Kurdistan Clashes

JN1608101893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0855 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Aug (INA)—AL-THAWRAH newspaper has reported that eight people were killed in the Autonomous Region of Kurdistan early this month at a time when the region is witnessing further incidents of robbery and murder.

The paper said the eight individuals were killed in an armed clash between elements of agent Jalal Talabani and other elements of Mas'ud Barzani in Dahuk Governorate.

It is worth noting that similar armed clashes between these elements have taken place recently in Irbil, al-Sulaymaniyah, and other cities. The clashes were triggered by competition over the spoils of robbery, taxes imposed on citizens, and banned trade, including drug trafficking, in collaboration with Mafia gangs.

The paper cited informed sources as saying that the sons of the Autonomous Region of Kurdistan have apparently stopped cooperating with CIA elements in the region controlled by cliques of agents and traitors.

Kurdish-Iranian Prisoner Exchange Arranged

NC1508163293 Paris AFP in English 1554 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] Irbil, Iraq, Aug 15 (AFP)—Four Iranian soldiers held by Kurdish forces in northern Iraq were due to be repatriated Sunday [15 August] in exchange for more than 10 Iraqi Kurds seized by the Iranian army, Kurdish officials said here.

The swap was due to take place at the Hajj 'Umran border post on the frontier of Iran and the Kurds' self-declared autonomous region in northern Iraq, established after the 1991 Gulf War, according to Jabbar Farman, a senior official in the Kurdish government.

The Iranian soldiers were taken prisoner last month during an attack on the Kurdish village of Karnawe, in the Choarta district, last month. Iran threatened to attack the town of al-Sulaymaniyah if the soldiers were not released, and then seized several villagers and customs officials as hostages.

An Iranian delegation arrived in Iraq last Thursday to negotiate the exchange, Farman said.

Iran has mounted repeated attacks on Kurdish northern Iraq, which is not recognised by the international community, in retaliation for what it says are attacks on Iran mounted by Iranian Kurds hiding in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Iraqi Kurdish officials said Sunday that Iranian shelling continued Saturday night, with artillery blasting the villages of Kani Maran and Kanikhaftan.

Kurdish Villages Come Under Fire

NC1508173993 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] Iranian artillery shelled the villages of the (Bidwan) area in Qada' Raniyah. The Iranian shelling, which began at midnight last night, involved the villages of (Salifah), (Manyawah), Kani Towan, and (Qulantanimarah). The shelling has caused no loss in life. These villages lie 40 km from the Iranian borders.

'Deceitful' Iranian Statements About POW's Denied

JN1608100393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0825 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Aug (INA)—A Foreign Ministry spokesman has made the following statement to INA:

Iranian officials make statements every now and then about Iraqi POW's still detained in Iran as a result of the Iranian regime's disregard for heavenly values and international law.

It is clear from the statements of Iranian officials that the Iranian regime is still persisting in its wrong approach, thinking it can pursue its deceitful, mendacious policy and use the question of POW's as a political card to achieve its suspect aims.

Over the past few days, Mohammad 'Ali Nazaran [name as received], the official in charge of POW affairs in Iran, has tried to distort facts documented at the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] regarding the number of Iraqi POW's, and claiming there were Iranian POW's in Iraq.

Also, Hasan Abu-Turabi [not further identified] alleged that 5,000 Iranian members of the military were still detained in Iraq.

The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Iraq denies the untrue, deceitful Iranian statements and asserts that Iraq holds no Iranian prisoners. Iraq released a total of

39,043 Iranian prisoners during August and September 1990 under the supervision of the ICRC. A small number of those who do not want to return to Iran remained in Iraq. The ICRC visited those people several times to make sure they do not want to return to Iran. Iraq communicated this stand to Iran through diplomatic channels and through the ICRC. In addition, there is in Iraq a number of Iranian infiltrators who were arrested while crossing the border illegally and committing crimes of vandalism and rioting during the chapter of treachery and treason in March 1991.

Iran still holds tens of thousands of Iraqi POW's, some registered and some not, despite the fact that the Geneva Conventions for 1949 and international law oblige it to return them without any delay once hostilities between the two countries cease, in accordance with Article 118 of the Third Geneva Convention for 1949 on POW's.

The allegations of those Iranian officials conflict with a statement made to TEHRAN TIMES on 20 May 1993 by Dr. Hasan Ruhani, deputy speaker of the Iranian Majles, that Iran still holds around 20,000 Iraqi POW's registered with the Red Cross. The Iraqi Foreign Ministry sent the text of this statement in its Memorandum No. 66436/1/1/6/7/ on 5 June 1993 to the ICRC mission in Baghdad.

Iraq asks the Iranian regime to release all Iraqi POW's registered with the Red Cross, as well as unregistered POW's, whose number is known and established by evidence.

Paper Vows People Will 'Overcome' Kuwaiti Defenses

NC1408155793 Paris AFP in English 1545 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 14 (AFP)—The Iraqi people will overcome the defences Kuwait is building on its border with this country and once again claim Kuwait as theirs, the government daily newspaper Al-Jumhuriyah vowed here Saturday [14 August].

The daily predicted the defensive "wall" being built by "French, Indian and American companies" in Kuwait to keep out Iraqi forces would suffer the same fate as the Berlin Wall, adding that the wall "will never hold back the will of the people."

Kuwait is currently building a sophisticated defence barrier against future Iraqi attacks. The Iraqi invasion of August 1990 resulted in an eight-month occupation of the emirate, reversed by a U.S.-led multinational force in the Gulf War of January and February 1991.

Al-Jumhuriyah cited the Maginot line, built by France as a protection against Germany but side-stepped by the Nazi armies in 1940, the Israeli Bar-Lev line on the Suez canal overcome by Egypt in 1973 and the Berlin Wall, built in 1961 to stop East Germans fleeing to West Berlin and dismantled in 1989, as examples of how "no line of defence can resist popular pressure."

The Iraqi press has been reiterating President Saddam Husayn's claims to Kuwait over the past two weeks, after celebrations were held August 2 to mark the third anniversary of the invasion.

Modern-Day Maginot Lines Cannot Protect Kuwait

JN1408200193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1655 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Commentary by Rayfan Matar; from the "Spotlight on the News" program]

[Text] In the next few days, U.S., French, and Indian companies will build a barrier along the unrecognized borderline between Iraq and Kuwait. Meanwhile, the rulers imposed on Kuwait have signed military agreements with four permanent UN security Council member states. These are the United States, Britain, France, and Russia. The regime is also working hard to sign a military agreement with China, the fifth permanent member state.

Meanwhile, reports have been leaked that sources close to the head of the regime said a secret agreement was signed between some opposition parliament members and the ruler imposed on Kuwait. Under that agreement, Jabir al-Sabah will pay large amounts of money to buy their silence about scandals among key members of the regime inside or outside Kuwait.

In another development, some diplomats said key members of the regime are in a state of fear and confusion as a result of growing popular indignation against the key members of the regime. This indignation grows because they have turned Kuwait into a U.S. protectorate in which corruption and the AIDS epidemic have spread as a result of the presence of the foreign troops, not to mention the restrictions the United States and its allies have imposed on the country to control its domestic and foreign policies.

The rulers of Kuwait have forgotten two important facts: The first is that the colonialist powers have never kept an agent forever. Rather, they change their agents at the appropriate time and replace them with other agents.

The second fact concerns fortified barriers and walls, which have never protected any ruler against sweeping storms. Let us take examples from history. Andre Maginot was an advocate of defense lines to protect France. Therefore, he began to set up the Maginot line, which extended from the Swiss border to (Malandi) and to the sea on the Belgian border. Maginot died, but work continued to complete the line. Towers, camps, reservoirs, power stations, and railways were set up. Yet, all these military fortifications collapsed during the German attack on France in 1940.

The Germans set up the (Gustav) defense line, which collapsed under the attack of the allies. The Germans set up another line which was called the Gothic line, which also soon collapsed. So did Rommel in the Western Sahara. He set up a fortified defensive line, which was called the (Mark) line. This, too, collapsed before the attacking forces.

In modern history, the Zionist enemy set up the Bar-Lev defensive line along the Suez Canal. The Zionist leadership believed the Bar-Lev line was invincible. However, the will of the Arab fighter in Egypt managed to penetrate this line despite its fortifications and sophisticated equipment. It was destroyed within six hours, something which made Moshe Dayan say of the Bar-Lev line that it was like a piece of French cheese with more holes than cheese.

Finally, we tell those who have not read history and have not deduced lessons from it that the Berlin wall was smashed under the will of the German people. This is because the will of unity among the same people is stronger than all walls and than all foreign powers that want to dismember peoples.

In light of the security preparations taking place in the Kuwait region and the presence of foreign troops, an observer commented on this unstable situation that reflects the real fear in the hearts of the pillars of the regimes. He said: How miserable the rulers who fear their own shadows are! It has been rightly said: Cowards cannot sleep.

Request Submitted to U.S. To Release $10 Million

JN1608080393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] Iraq's permanent UN representative has submitted a formal memorandum to the U.S. permanent UN mission, asking the United States to release $10 million from Iraq's frozen assets to cover the expenses of printing the Holy Koran.

Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf had earlier addressed a letter to the UN secretary general, asking him to exert efforts to release the sum from Iraq's frozen assets abroad. The UN secretary general referred Iraq's request to the Sanctions Committee for study. The Sanctions Committee asked Iraq to name a state holding its frozen assets, provided this state agrees to release the sum needed and informs the Sanctions Committee about this.

The following is the text of Iraq's memorandum:

Iraq's permanent UN representative extends his best greetings to the U.S. permanent UN mission and would like, upon instructions from the Government of the Republic of Iraq, to refer to a memorandum by the Sanctions Committee made under Resolution 661, Point A, stating that Iraq should name a country holding its frozen assets and is willing to release funds for this purpose.

Since the United States currently holds frozen Iraqi funds, the Government of the Republic of Iraq would like the U.S. Government to release $10 million from Iraqi funds to cover the expenses of printing the Holy Koran and inform the Sanctions Committee about its willingness to do so.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq hopes the U.S. Government would consider the importance and sensitivity of the question of printing the Holy Koran and the noble objectives sought behind this.

The Iraqi permanent UN representative takes this opportunity to extend best wishes to the U.S. permanent UN mission.

Serbian Company Reportedly To Help Jam Radio Programs

JN1408082793 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0430 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Informed sources outside the homeland have disclosed that an agreement was signed last Monday [9 August] between [words indistinct] company and the despot's regime to establish [words indistinct] radio jamming in Iraq.

The sources said that the Serbian-Saddamist jamming stations will be established in Safwan, (Naqrat al-Salman), (Ingas), Jalula, Karkuk, and Garmak. The cost of these stations has been estimated at $8 million.

The agreement that was signed with the Serbian company, on behalf of the ostracized regime, by servile Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, the minister of information for the despot, stipulates that the regime will supply the required equipment while the Serbian company will [words indistinct] to establish and operate these stations to prevent facts from reaching the Muslim Iraqi people and to cover up the barbarism of the despot and his regime, which is imposed by the international forums.

These stations will jam the transmissions of Arab radios and the Iraqi opposition radios.

Finance Minister Denounces IMF Decision Against Sudan

JN1508135993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1223 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Aug (INA)—Finance Minister Ahmad Husayn has denounced the IMF's decision to suspend Sudan's membership.

In a statement to INA today, the minister said that the decision reveals U.S. attempts to control and use international institutions and organizations as a tool to put pressure on Third World countries, particularly the Arab countries that do not follow the Americans' designs and interests.

He added: The delay in repaying Sudan's debts to the fund, which prompted the decision, is only an excuse to cover unjust motives. The issue, he added, should have been resolved within the Third World indebtedness framework and not by suspending Sudan's membership.

The Iraqi minister also noted that the decision was reached by only a slight majority of votes, a fact that reflects the member states' objection to the suspension decision.

He said the decision was adopted by the U.S.-led Western countries for political rather than economic considerations in an attempt to put pressure on developing countries that are trying to work out an independent path.

The finance minister also pointed out that Iraq strongly opposed the suspension decision and sent messages by telex to the executive director of the IMF group that includes Iraq.

Sudanese Education Minister Concludes Week-Long Visit

Received by Prime Minister

JN1408165693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, Revolution Command Council member and prime minister, this morning received Sudanese Education Minister 'Abd-al-Basit Salih Sabdarat. During the meeting, the prime minister reiterated the appreciation of the Iraqi Government and people for the genuine pan-Arab stand of the Sudanese people and leadership on Iraq and its confrontation of the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic aggression. He said the strong bilateral relations are based on a far-sighted strategic view. He said: We will do our best to promote these relations in the interest of the two fraternal countries.

The prime minister reviewed Iraq's experience in the field of developing subdistricts under the supervision of senior state officials in implementation of leader President Saddam Husayn's directives. He explained the major benefits of this campaign.

The Sudanese education minister expressed great appreciation for the hospitality he and his delegation are being accorded during their visit to Iraq. He said the stand of the Sudanese people and government on the brotherly Iraqi people and leadership reflects true appreciation of what Iraq and President Saddam Husayn have offered and for their genuine pan-Arab stand on the Sudanese people. He said educational programs in Sudan have benefited from Iraq's educational experiments. He indicated that the nationalist Sudanese songs chanted at schools sing for Iraq. He also said that hundreds of newborns have been named after leader Saddam Husayn, this pan-Arab hero whom they regard as a good omen, appreciating his stand on the foreign aggression. He affirmed that the educational relations between the two fraternal countries are based on solid, principled basis. He indicated that Sudan, which is in the process of preparing new educational programs, will benefit from Iraq's experience, especially in the vocational field in order to prepare intermediary cadres to advance national Sudanese products. He praised the decision to teach all the holy Koran at all educational levels.

The meeting was also attended by Education Minister Hikmat 'Abdallah al-Bazzaz.

Signs Educational, Legal Agreements

JN1408180693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Iraq and Sudan today signed joint minutes on cultural, scientific, and educational cooperation. The minutes were signed on the Iraqi side by Education Minister Hikmat 'Abdallah al-Bazzaz, and on the Sudanese side by Education Minister 'Abd-al-Basit Salih Sabdarat. The minutes provide for strengthening contacts between the ministries to unify their stands on international issues of interest to the two fraternal countries in the fields of education, culture, and sciences. The minutes stipulate the provision of technical assistance for the Iraqi side in the field of teaching the holy Koran for youth, as well as in the field of folklore.

The minutes also provide for technical assistance for the Sudanese side in the field of vocational training and educational aids and techniques, especially in the field of educational television.

Iraq and Sudan also signed today an agreement for legal and judicial cooperation. The agreement was signed by Iraqi Justice Minister Shabib Lazim al-Maliki and Sudanese Justice Minister 'Abd- al-'Aziz 'Abdallah Shiddu. The agreement provides for enhancing cooperation and coordination between the two ministries in legal and judicial fields to promote legal, judicial, and legislative action through the exchange of expertise and experience. The two sides affirmed their condemnation of all forms of intervention in both countries' domestic affairs.

Departs Baghdad 15 Aug

JN1508154093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] Sudanese Education Minister 'Abd-al-Basit Salih Sabdarat left Baghdad today after a week-long visit to Iraq. During the visit, the visiting minister acquainted himself with the quantitative and qualitative educational developments Iraq has achieved since the glorious 17-30 July revolution.

The Sudanese minister and Education Minister Hikmat 'Abdallah al-Bazzaz signed the minutes of a bilateral cultural, scientific, and educational cooperation agreement. The agreement will promote contacts between the Iraqi and Sudanese Ministries of Education on all levels in order to unify their positions toward international issues of mutual interest in educational, cultural, and scientific areas.

Rabin 'Categorically Opposed' to Contacts With DPRK

TA1508122693 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 15 Aug 93 p 5

[Report by Amnon Barzilay]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is categorically opposed to the contacts under way between Israel and the DPRK.

A senior source close to the prime minister said yesterday that Rabin is displeased with the contacts Eytan Bentzur, assistant director general of the Foreign Ministry, and his aide, Avi Siton, have been holding with senior North Korean officials in Pyongyang and Beijing. The prime minister was also angry about the meeting held between Israeli and North Korean diplomats last week.

In the prime minister's opinion, the contacts Israel has been holding with the DPRK might legitimize the supply of long-range missiles and Scud launchers to Iran and Syria. Rabin supports the U.S. policy aimed at isolating the DPRK as long as it engages in the manufacture of missiles and supplies them to countries in the Middle East. "Although some Israelis think they can change the DPRK's policy, Rabin believes only the United States can do that," the senior source said.

The Foreign Ministry is divided over the contacts with the DPRK. While Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin supports Rabin's position, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres tends to side with the position of Assistant Director General Bentzur, who is in charge of the contacts with the DPRK, for going ahead with them. Peres also contemplated the possibility of accepting an invitation to visit the DPRK, but had to give it up in the face of U.S. objections. Rabin and Peres will apparently meet this week to decide on future Israeli policy concerning the DPRK and how to reply to the second invitation handed to Bentzur by the DPRK Government. [passage omitted]

Claims Scuds Sent to Syria, Possibly Iran

TA1508145893 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] Early last week Russian planes delivered Scud-C missiles from North Korea to Damascus and perhaps even to Iran. This was said this evening by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in an address to an Israel Bonds gathering. Rabin added that now there is a better opportunity of achieving peace, especially with Syria. Our correspondent Golan Yokhpaz reports:

[Begin recording] [Yokhpaz] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this evening said that, on one hand, all the parties involved in the Middle East conflict are saying everything must be done to advance the peace process. On the other hand, however, the dangerous arms race in the Middle East is continuing. The prime minister said that the main arms threat in our region comes from the direction of Iran.

[Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 15 August, reporting on Rabin's address to the Bonds gathering, adds: "According to Rabin, Iran and its support for Muslim extremism today constitutes the greatest danger to peace and stability in the Middle East. If Iran continues to arm itself, it will constitute the main danger to Israel's security in seven to 15 years. The prime minister added that only the United States recognizes this danger and is acting to curb it."] Rabin said that two days after the departure of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher from our region the missiles were delivered to Damascus:

[Rabin, in English] Two days after the after Secretary of State Warren Christopher left the region, Russian planes carried from North Korea to Damascus—maybe to Iran—Scud-C's from North Korea to Syria.

[Yokhpaz, translates the above and continues] The issue of the arms race in the Middle East was also raised in today's cabinet meeting. The cabinet discussed the political contacts with North Korea, in which Israel tried to convince the DPRK not to sell long-range missiles to countries such as Syria and Iran. Israeli intelligence elements, however, have recently voiced serious doubts whether North Korea will acquiesce to Israel's request to halt the delivery of long-range missiles.

In his speech to the Bonds gathering, Rabin also spoke of the peace process, saying that now there is a better opportunity of achieving peace, especially with Syria. Rabin said he still believes the peace process should be pursued along two parallel tracks, the official and the nonofficial—in order to be able to continue talks with representatives of Arab states in a nonofficial channel. [end recording]

Gur: Missiles Must Not Affect Talks

TA1608075493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur by Gay Zohar and Ge'ula Even—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Even] Does the supply of Scud-C missiles to Syria in the midst of the peace process with Israel prove that the Syrian president is not serious about peace?

[Gur] I do not think so. If you look at the history of the Syrians—incidentally, they are not the only ones—you will see that they have always adopted a two-pronged attitude. They never stopped their military buildup while conducting political negotiations. Not only did they not stop their military buildup while negotiating with us after the Yom Kippur War, but they never stopped firing either. Nevertheless, the negotiations continued and culminated in an agreement which has

remained in effect to this day. Therefore, we should under no circumstances whatsoever fall into that trap. We must pursue the peace negotiations. [passage omitted]

[Zohar] What do you think of the Likud position?

[Gur] I must say I fail to see the logic that the whole purpose of the peace process is to end all wars. Therefore, I think that halting the process by posing these or other conditions would be a serious mistake. The direct relevance of the Golan Heights in the overall security context of a peaceful relationship between Israel and Syria is a central issue which will definitely be examined in the negotiations. In any event, to decide today that because of these missiles we will or we will not do something in the Golan Heights has been the opposition's long-standing political view. I do not think it is relevant to the question at hand. We must make every possible effort to prevent the Syrians and the Iranians from getting such missiles while pushing the Middle East in general, and Israel's relations with its neighboring countries in particular, toward peace.

[Gur] Sir, thank you very much.

Likud Calls for No Golan Withdrawal

TA1508172993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] The Likud faction in the Knesset has called on the government to inform Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad that Israel is no longer willing to withdraw on the Golan following news of the shipment of North Korean Scuds to Syria. The faction issued a statement saying the shipment proves Syria is preparing not for peace but war.

U.S. Opposition to Contacts With DPRK Noted

TA1408074693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] The United States is continuing to pressure Israel to avoid contacts with North Korea. This is evident from reports that reached Jerusalem after the meetings Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin held in Washington with the head of the National Security Council.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that, despite the U.S. pressure, Israel's PRC Embassy staffers met with DPRK Embassy officials last Wednesday [11 August] in Beijing. The DPRK representatives wanted the contacts between the two countries institutionalized and asked that the dates and level of ties be determined. Our correspondent was told that Israel will most probably accept the U.S. pressure and not hold contacts with North Korea.

Beilin: U.S. Policy Considered

TA1508063293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin in the United States by Karmit Gay—live]

[Text] [Gay] The United States and Iran are concerned about Israel's developing relations with North Korea [DPRK]. Iran is mainly worried that these improved relations will block the supply of North Korean missiles to Tehran.

Authoritative sources told our political correspondent Shlomo Raz that the Tehran authorities hastily summoned the North Korean ambassador to receive details on the developing ties with Israel. Pyongyang has requested Israeli economic aid and proposed selling a gold mine to Israel in return for halting the sale of missiles to Iran. Apparently, Washington has also been pressuring Jerusalem not to consolidate its relations with the DPRK. Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin was apprised of the U.S. position during his visit to the United States. Good morning to Mr. Yosi Beilin.

[Beilin] Good morning.

[Gay] What were you told by the U.S. officials?

[Beilin] I do not want to get into details here. However, I would like to make one thing clear in principle. When things pertain to Israel's security, we do not seek permission or approval from any other party, including the United States. At the same time, we have to ask ourselves whether a certain issue, such as the one currently on the agenda, is crucial enough to Israel's security to make us do things that conflict with U.S. policy or that the United States does not approve of. This is a matter for internal discussion. We hoped that establishing economic relations with the DPRK could help prevent the sale of North Korean missiles and missile launching equipment to Iran. It is not at all certain whether such economic ties could indeed prevent this. Since relations between the United States and the DPRK are especially strained, Israel should definitely consider whether having a misunderstanding with the Americans about this matter is worthwhile.

[Gay] What is your own opinion?

[Beilin] I think that the issue should be thoroughly discussed. There has been no U.S. pressure, far from it. I believe that on such an issue Israel can consult with the United States, and even accept its position to a great extent.

[Gay] Why? Do you not fear that this will be seen as a capitulation, or that Israel will be perceived as being in Washington's pocket with the U.S. dictating our foreign policy?

[Beilin] No. The issue is not one of prestige. We do not have such considerations when an issue is perceived as

being crucial to Israel's security. However, we are dealing with an issue that may not necessarily contribute to Israel's security, something that while offering a chance may not materialize. Therefore, since the United States is boycotting the DPRK and given the fact that there is no certainty of a crucial contribution to Israel's security, I think there is room to coordinate our policy with the United States, and I believe we are moving in that direction.

[Gay] Thank you very much, Dr. Yosi Beilin.

'Sources': Iran Concerned About Ties With DPRK

TA1408102393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Not only the United States, but Iran is also concerned about the evolving ties betweek Israel and the DPRK. Iran's concern stems from the fear that improved ties between the two countries might halt the supply of DPRK missiles to Iran.

Authoritative sources told our political correspondent Shlomo Raz that the Iranian authorities have urgently summoned the DPRK ambassador, asking for details about the ties forming with Israel. The issues in question are the Pyongyang request for economic aid from Jerusalem, and a DPRK offer to sell Israel a gold mine in return for stopping the shipments of missiles to Iran. [passage omitted]

Knowledge of Executed Jordanian Spies Denied

TA1508124793 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] Israeli Foreign Ministry sources say they know nothing about the affair involving two Jordanian citizens who were executed in Jordan this morning after being convicted of spying for Israel. Jordanian newspapers today reported that the two, officers in the Jordanian Army, relayed military secrets to Israel.

Rabin: Northern Areas Not Crucial to Security

TA1608064693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says Golan Heights settlers pose a risk during military operations. Rabin called the settlers innocent targets, and said keeping whatever is in the northern territories is not crucial to Israel's security. The prime minister has said Israel will withdraw from an unspecified amount of territory on the Golan Heights, which was captured from Syria in the war of 1967, in exchange for peace. According to Rabin, whoever thinks peace can be given for peace alone is talking nonsense.

Health Minister Rejects Abu-Sharif Offer on Jericho

TA1408091193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0800 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Health Minister Hayim Ramon by 'Adi Talmor—live]

[Excerpt] [Talmor] Bassam Abu-Sharif, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, is suggesting that a Palestinian government, headed by 'Arafat, be set up in Jericho. This government will hold negotiations with Israel's Government on the permanent arrangement in the territories. In a telephone conversation from Tunis, Abu- Sharif noted that this is his own private offer, made in a bid to push the peace process forward. Bassam Abu-Sharif stressed that the Palestinian delegates are from now on, publicly and officially, PLO members who enjoy the full confidence of the PLO leadership in Tunis. He called on Yitzhaq Rabin to take a step forward and allow Israeli ministers to hold open meetings with PLO officials.

[Begin Abu-Sharif recording, in English] The PLO is there. It has been leading the negotiations all the way. And I think now, Mr. Rabin should take a step forward and legalize meetings between Israeli ministers and PLO officials. [end recording]

[Talmor] Minister Hayim Ramon, what is your reaction to this offer by Bassam Abu-Sharif to set up a Palestinian government in Jericho after Israel withdraws, which will negotiate the permanent arrangement in the territories with the Israeli Government?

[Ramon] In principle, I believe that any attempt to introduce issues which clearly belong in the permanent arrangement stage, while we are negotiating the interim stage, will only cause a delay in reaching an agreement. I believe that an Arabic proverb is in order here: Haste is devilish. We hope that, in the framework of the interim arrangement, an autonomous Palestinian authority will be set up, which will be elected by the residents of the territories and which will conduct the autonomy during the autonomy period. If the Palestinians decide that this authority should also manage the permanent arrangement, I will certainly view this positively. Nevertheless, if the intention is to set up a government—whose, over what?—made like a full fledged government with the appropriate powers, this contradicts the agreement we and the Palestinians have made that the negotiations are to be held in two stages—the interim stage and the permanent arrangement stage.

[Talmor] I see you avoid mentioning the names PLO-Tunis and Yasir 'Arafat.

[Ramon] I am not avoiding this. PLO-Tunis is a meaningful element even in the current negotiations. We do not deny this; we are aware of this fact; we do not ignore

it. The question is what will be the shape of the self-government the residents will elect. Whoever the Palestinian residents of the territories elect as their representative will be our negotiating partner. We do not disqualify anyone except, of course, those who take part in terror activity or support it. Other than this basic and fundamental precondition, we will negotiate with anyone the residents of the territories elect. This is included in the offers we had made in Washington, and they still stand. [passage omitted]

'Sources' React to Proposal To Form Special Committee

TA1508121593 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Aug 93 pp A1, A8

[Report by Hemi Shalev and Gid'on Alon]

[Excerpts] The United States is considering a proposal that Israel and the Palestinians establish a special negotiating committee, which would include U.S. officials, in order to formulate a joint declaration of principles. The U.S. proposal, which has still not been officially submitted to the parties, would further raise the level of U.S. involvement in the negotiations, with U.S. officials actively participating in the negotiations for the first time.

Nevertheless, Israeli sources yesterday noted that such a situation would not greatly differ from the state of affairs that prevailed at the last round of talks, when U.S. officials met daily with both parties to clarify differences regarding the declaration of principles. The sources estimated that the committee established to formulate the joint statement of principles would be an informal body that would remain outside of the official negotiations framework so that the Americans would not be perceived as "being a party" to the actual negotiations.

The United States regards an agreement on a joint declaration of principles as the basis for progress with the Palestinians. In talks with both parties, the Americans stressed that arrangements such as "Gaza First" or early empowerment could only be discussed in parallel with the signing of a declaration of principles.

The discussions in Washington on expediting the signing of a joint declaration of principles conform with a report sent to Jerusalem last week from the Israeli Embassy in Washington, which said that the United States intended to show a high degree of involvement in the negotiations.

Israeli sources yesterday hoped that it would again be possible to concentrate on the Palestinian track, in addition to the negotiations with Syria, now that the serious crisis within the PLO has been resolved, and it has become clear that there has been no change in the status of the Palestinian delegates, who have not been appointed to any official PLO body. "For all intents and purposes, nothing actually happened," an official at the prime minister's bureau said last night.

According to sources on the Israeli side, the only change in the status of the Palestinian delegates is that from now on they will regularly attend the meetings of the PLO's steering committee on the peace talks, whereas in the past their attendance was not on a regular basis. The delegates were not incorporated into any other PLO body.

With the exclusion of Minister Shim'on Shetrit, all the cabinet ministers yesterday asserted that there was nothing about last week's decisions in Tunis to affect the continuation of the negotiations. Shetrit published a communique according to which the decisions made in Tunis with regard to the status of the Palestinian delegation, constituted "a violation of both the Madrid framework and the letter of guarantees the United States gave Israel on the eve of the Madrid conference."

Minister Hayim Ramon said in reaction that there had been no substantive change in the status of the delegates, but in any case "the rules of the Madrid conference are not carved in stone." Ramon said that "the Madrid rules were designed to serve the peace process, and not the other way around." Ramon noted that "those who do not want the process to make progress raise procedural obstacles and gleefully seize any change in the hope that the process will grind to a halt."

Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur, generally one of the "hawks" in the cabinet, yesterday published an announcement in which he expressed satisfaction with "the bolstered standing of the Palestinian delegation prior to the resumption of the negotiations." Tzur also attacked the "eagerness among Labor officials and circles to insist on courting the PLO leadership in Tunis."

Minister Yosi Sarid described the results of the arguments in Tunis as "a basically positive development" and hoped that from now on "there would be a better connection between Tunis and the territories." Sarid said that the cabinet would have to hold a comprehensive debate before the upcoming round of peace talks. [passage omitted on statements by Arab officials]

Following a demand by the Likud faction, a Knesset plenum will convene on 17 August for a special session during its summer recess to discuss the issue of holding negotiations with Palestinians who are official members of the PLO. Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday said that he demanded that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin categorically declare that Israel would not agree to negotiate with those members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks who have officially joined the PLO.

Rabin, Peres Reiterate Adherence To Madrid Formula

TA1508122793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] In today's cabinet session, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres made it clear that Israel is adhering to the Madrid

formula, according to which it is negotiating with the representatives of the Palestinians in the territories rather than with an official PLO delegation. The prime minister emphasized that the official statements of PLO-Tunis refer to decisions on organizational issues, and there is no explicit statement regarding the change in the status of the Palestinian delegation members.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that during the session, Minister Ya'ir Tzaban said the recent developments are very positive, because they strengthen the position of the Palestinian delegation members. Minister Shim'on Shetrit, on the other hand, demanded that Israel unequivocally clarify its adherence to the Madrid formula. Minister Shetrit stated that unless Israel does so, it will be turning a blind eye to the situation.

Tacit Acceptance of PLO Negotiators Criticized

TA1508122993 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 15 Aug 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Tacit Acceptance of the PLO"]

[Text] Soon, without any overt and binding government decision, Israel will find itself holding peace talks with the PLO's official representatives. This will be brought about by last week's decision to include members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks in the PLO institutions. The Palestinians openly announced it, and the Israeli Government nodded in tacit agreement.

Which is exactly where the problem lies, in the tacit agreement. Through it the Israeli Government is letting go of a first-rate political bargaining chip. It is making a far-reaching concession to the Palestinians, without getting anything in return. Why is it making such a mistake? Because it is afraid to admit openly that it has changed its position.

This fear is futile. It is abundantly clear to the overwhelming majority of Israelis that direct talks between Israel and the PLO are inevitable. However, the public would like to see the Israeli Government using its willingness to speak to the PLO in a wise and courageous manner and as a lever to attain an equivalent Palestinian concession. Not a government that averts looking us in the eye and says that nothing has changed at a time when everything has changed.

This was bound to happen, but it is a shame that it had to happen this way; like a thief in the night.

Netanyahu Wants 20-Year Interim Settlement in Gaza Strip

TA1508105593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu says he would apply an interim settlement on Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip for at least 20 years. In an address to the Israel Bonds in Jerusalem this morning, Netanyahu outlines his policy on Gaza and the Golan Heights.

[Begin Netanyahu recording] I would leave Gaza in an interim settlement for a very long time. I would apply this autonomy because in Gaza we have a problem that we don't have in the West Bank. The problem with Gaza, as opposed to the Arabs of Judaea and Samaria, is that they are not citizens of any country, and I would not propose to define the final status of these Arabs for the next 20 years. I wouldn't touch it. I would say: Run your daily lives, we will have security, we will have sovereign control. But I will not make a determination about Gaza, because it is fundamentally different. It is also less vital for our security concerns. It is more important from political terms. So, in the case of Gaza, I would leave it in an interim settlement for a prolonged period and not make a determination on the final status.

Golan—in the Golan there are no people, nothing. Golan is strategic territory. I would make a functional arrangement with al-Asad, I would say: If you want to talk to me about peace, then prove to me that you are not a threat. Move your army, reduce your army, and we will talk about other arrangements, for example, that are vital for your survival, such as water. You cannot solve your water problem without us, that's a fact, it is simply impossible. And we will talk about American and other support for Syria, if Syria changes. That they will ask? So they will ask. [as heard] I don't have to commit myself to anything—neither does he—when we come into the negotiations. I am sure that my negotiating position will end up with a much better position for Israel than the current position, that says: Have all or most of the Golan. Will al-Asad agree? They say that he will never come to the peace table. That's what they told us right after the Gulf war. They said he will never come to Madrid unless you promise to give up all or most of the Golan. He came. [end recording]

IDF Preparing for Hamas Deportees' Return

TA1508153193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] The International Committee of the Red Cross has officially informed the Foreign Ministry that the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees are willing to return home in stages in September and December, and the defense establishment and that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] are preparing for their return.

The first group will be made up of 120 deportees whose return was approved early in the year in the wake of understandings reached between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and rulings of the appeals' committee. These deportees did not, however, want to return without their friends. The second group is made up of 66 activists deported for 18 months. They will complete half of their expulsion term next month.

The defense minister's media adviser said that those who were in detention prior to their deportation will be

returned to the lockups, and those against whom information has been gathered that they participated in terrorist activities will be also be arrested on return. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that some of the deportees formed ties with Hizballah and other organizations in recent months and underwent terrorist training.

SLA's Lahd Meets Rabin, Comments on Army Deployment

TA1408103693 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yizhaq Rabin this afternoon received at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv Major General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA]. The meeting was attended by Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activity in Lebanon, and Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Northern Command. Rabin heard a briefing by Maj. Gen. Lahd on the situation in the security zone and the demands and aspirations of its people.

In an interview with Maj. Gen. Lahd that Albert Bihar conducted after the meeting, Maj. Gen. Lahd referred to the understanding reached by the parties in the area following last month's Operation Accountability carried out by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] against Hizballah positions.

[Begin recording] [Lahd] I think that the understanding that was reached is sufficient at present to stop or decrease the operations. This was, of course, our objective in the operation—that is, to end or decrease Hizballah's operations as much as possible. I think that the agreement that was made will lead to this result.

[Bihar] What about guarantees for the security zone in southern Lebanon?

[Lahd] There are no guarantees, even for Israel, because there is no written agreement signed between two states. There are no full guarantees for Israel or for the security zone.

[Bihar] Is it possible that specific measures will be taken in coordination with or on the basis of an understanding with the UN forces or the regular Lebanese Army?

[Lahd] So far, I think the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the way it was done is ineffective because the number of troops is small and because politically the Army does not have the orders it supposed to have. I think that if the situation remains as it is today, the Army's effectiveness in the area will be very limited.

[Bihar] Who can influence the organizations to maintain self- restraint?

[Lahd] There is no doubt that influential states, such as Syria, exert pressure on them to maintain self-restraint. Furthermore, a bigger gap has been created between the people north of the security zone and Hizballah. This will make it difficult for Hizballah to operate, and if it does, it will anger the people more. I think that the operations are supposed to decrease. [end recording]

Police Said To Foil Attempt To Assassinate King

Islamic al-Tahrir Party Implicated

JN1408124893 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] An authorized source has revealed that security authorities have foiled an attempt to assassinate Jordan's King Husayn. The source said that the attempt was intended to be carried out in June 1993 during a graduation ceremony at the military Mu'tah University, south of Amman. The source explained that the Islamic al-Tahrir Party, which is an unlicensed, extremist party that does not recognize the Constitution, was behind the attempt.

Eight members of this party will be put on public trial soon, while two others who are still at large will be tried in absentia. The source indicated that the banned party recruited a number of Mu'tah University students who were scheduled to attend the graduation ceremony, but they were arrested during the initial stages of planning the operation, which was described as poorly- planned.

'Ata Abu-al-Rashtah, spokesman for the party, and Bakr Salim al- Khawalidah, a party member, were arrested in May. They are still under arrest. This is the third abortive attempt that the al-Tahrir Party has planned to topple the regime in Jordan. The second attempt was in 1987. The party calls for the application of the Islamic shari'ah [law].

JORDAN TIMES on Alleged Plot

JN1508084993 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Aug 93 pp 1,3

[Text] Amman (Agencies)—The Jordanian authorities have been holding 10 people for months on suspicion they were plotting to assassinate King Husayn at a university ceremony in June, international news agencies said Saturday.

Official sources quoted by Reuters, Agence France Presse and the Association Press said they were members of the banned Islamic Liberation Party. The party's spokesman and his assistants, 'Ata Abu-al-Rashtah and Bakr al-Khawalidah, were detained on May 23, weeks after most of the others, the reports said.

They said 31 students and members of the Mu'tah University staff were arrested April 15 after the plot was uncovered. Twenty-three suspects have been freed, most of them this week, after extensive interrogation.

Eight cadets remain in jail and two are at large, the officials said.

The 10 will be formally charged at a public session of a special State Security Court. But the date for the hearing has not yet been fixed, they said.

All those arrested in April were suspected members of the ILP, which seeks to establish an Islamic state in Jordan, the agency reports said.

The arrests were first reported last month by their families and the Cairo-based Arab Organisation for Human Rights, which complained that 31 suspects were being held without charge.

The detainees, most of them students at Mu'tah University, were moved to a military jail earlier this month and will probably stand trial after Aug. 20, they said.

Relatives quoted in the reports said the authorities would also try them for membership of an illegal Islamic group.

The government has declined comment on the detentions. "We have nothing to say," an official spokesman was quoted as saying by Reuters.

Information Minister Ma'n Abu-Nuwar confirmed to the AP that arrests have been made in a state security matter, but would give no details.

"My information is that the issue is in the hands of the judiciary, but I cannot say anything more than this," Dr. Abu-Nuwar told the AP.

The security officials had no details about how the plot was to be implemented, but said the men planned to assassinate King Husayn, 57, June 26 during the graduation ceremony at Mu'tah University, 130 kilometres south of Amman.

Nawwaf Judayfat, a businessman in al-Zarqa', 25 kilometres northeast of Amman, told AP Saturday that his son Fu'ad, 21, was among those still in jail.

He said that another son, Jihad, a police officer at Mu'tah, was released Tuesday.

'Ali Musatafa Jidi, a contractor in Irbid, said his son, Husayn 19, an electrical engineering student at Mu'tah "disappeared in April, and authorities recently told us that he had been because he is a dangerous man." [sentence as published]

Mr. Jidi told the AP his son is a devout Muslim, but denied that he belonged to an Islamic radical group.

After the arrests at Mu'tah, the two ILP leaders were captured.

Mr. Abu-Rashtah, a 50-year-old civil engineer and the group's spokesman, and Mr. Khawalidah, a senior party member, were arrested at their homes in al-Zarqa' on May 20.

They also have not been charged. But officials have said they were suspected of illegal political activities.

If convicted the detainees could face the death sentence but relatives say they expect that King Husayn would reprieve them, as he has done on similar occasions in the past.

Mr. Abu-Rashtah's wife Umm Yasin said she last visited her husband in early July and found him in good spirits.

The Jordan Bar Association has written to the prime minister's office and to the interior and justice ministries seeking details on the arrests but it has not received official replies.

Ten Suspects To Stand Trial

JN1608075193 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 August 93 p 1

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sana' 'Atiyah]

[Text] Amman—The case of 10 people suspected of plotting to assassinate His Majesty King Husayn goes to military court within one week, but no exact date has been set for the trial, a senior security source said Sunday.

The source, speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity, did not elaborate on the specific charges facing the 10, but said they were accused of belonging to an illegal group, the Islamic Liberation (al-Tahrir) Party (ILP). The party's aims, the source said, "are well-known, which is to topple the regime and replace it with an Islamic state."

Around 30 people, mainly students and staff members at Mu'tah's military university south of Amman, were arrested and detained at the General Intelligence Department (GID) in April and May for allegedly plotting to kill the King during a speech he was to give on June 26. But most of the detainees were released in the past two weeks, and the rest were transferred to a military prison in al- Zarqa' last week where they await their trial.

The security source said that the public trial at the State Security Court will begin as soon as the investigation into the case is completed, adding that two of the 10 will be tried in absentia if they are not captured before the hearings start. The source described the suspects as a combination of "soldiers and civilians."

The al-Tahrir Party was established in the West Bank in the early 1950s, and had a representative in the Jordanian Parliament in 1956. Although the organisation is known to have plotted against the regime previously it has no history of carrying out terrorist activities to achieve its goals, principal among which is the creation of Caliphate-like Islamic states in the Arab World. However, critics of the ILP mainly the leftist parties of the 50s, had at the time accused the party, which did not enjoy much grassroots support, of receiving funds from the West.

Meanwhile, some of the detainees' parents were permitted to see their imprisoned sons on Sunday for the first time since their detentions. The security sources said that some other parents had visited their children on Friday.

Representatives of the International Red Cross (ICRC) also visited the detainees on Sunday, but they declined to comment on their situation. The head of the ICRC delegation in Amman, Michel Ducraux, also declined to confirm or deny allegations by some of the suspects' parents that their sons "were hidden from the ICRC representatives at the GID cells."

"I cannot comment on these allegations," Mr. Ducraux told the Jordan Times, "and I cannot give any details on the situation of the prisoners we visited today."

The ICRC has access to visit detainees at the GID and other prisons twice a month to inspect the treatment of the prisoners.

But according to Nawwaf Judayfat, the father of Fu'ad, 19, who is one of the eight awaiting trial, the prisoners were temporarily removed from the prison at the GID so that the Red Cross representatives could not see them. Mr. Judayfat, whose other son, Jihad, was released from the GID prison last Tuesday, said his sons complained that on the day of the ICRC regular visit to the GID prison, they were "blindfolded, handcuffed and separately taken to the offices at the department until the international representatives left the building."

Mr. Judayfat, a merchant living in al-Zarqa' and who said he represented all the parents of the detainees, contended that the prisoners were not allowed to see anyone, including lawyers, during their detention at the GID headquarters.

The fathers and brother of four detainees who spoke to the Jordan Times at a lawyer's office on Sunday described their sons as "devout Muslims," but claimed the young men were all innocent of accusations of trying to kill our master (the King)."

AL-AHALI Reports Details

JN1608092293 Amman AL-AHALI in Arabic 16 Aug 93 pp 1, 7

[Text] Ten detainees from Mu'tah University will face open trial and two others will be tried in absentia within the coming days, informed sources told AL-AHALI [newspaper of the Jordanian People's Democratic Party, a Jordanian branch of the Nayif Hawatimah wing of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine].

Relatives of the detainees told AL-AHALI that the Jordanian authorities recently released three detainees, four months after their arrest. Jihad Nawwaf Judayfat was among those released.

A relative of a detainee added that all detainees were moved to the military prison in al-Zarqa' to await trial.

Sources said that the detainees will be charged with joining an illegal party, the Islamic Liberation Party, and

attempting to destabilize the regime through an assassination attempt against his majesty the king during a graduation ceremony at the university.

Sources said early this month that the arrests came after security organs received information about a plot against the king's life during his visit to Mu'tah University. Information also revealed that mercury was found missing from laboratory equipment one day before the visit. This raised doubts about the motive for the theft.

The three who were released will be called as witnesses at the trial, according to a relative of one of the detainees. Since the arrests were made, seven people have so far been released.

A brother of one of the detainees said that the detainees, who have not so far made any statements, were told that if they confessed that there was a plot to assassinate the king, in return their cases would be referred to court quickly. They would then be sentenced, and then they would be granted amnesty. He said the detainees rejected the deal.

According to a correspondent of an international news agency, Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali refused to answer several questions posed by journalists and correspondents of international news agencies about the detainees.

A political source commented: "Maybe the prime minister does not know the details of the case," and that maybe the case is directly linked to higher Jordanian quarters, believed to be the Royal Court. The source based its analysis on the General Intelligence Law that allows a direct link between the side that follows up a security case and a responsible side outside the General Intelligence.

AL-AHALI said the government is greatly disturbed by the reports and coverage of the case by the weekly and party newspapers, however, there has been no official clarification of the circumstances surrounding the case.

AL-AHALI was the first paper to report the arrests on 21 June 1993, and gave the names of some of the detainees. They are: Yusuf Zurayqat, Su'ud al-Da'jah, Ziyad al-'Abdallat, 'Abd-al-Hakim Khuraysat, Ahmad al-Hayari, 'Umar al-'Ayasirah, Basil al-Zughul, Husayn al-Jadi, Husayn al-Najadat, and Sulayman al-Zuyud.

AL-AHALI has learned that former Deputy Bassam Haddadin has sent an urgent appeal to the prime minister asking him to provide all legal guarantees to the defendants. In his appeal, Haddadin said: "We seriously fear total isolation of the detainees, who have been deprived of meeting with relatives, and denied lawyers' visits."

Haddadin recalled the Islamic Mobilization case, and said: We have painful memories that call for dismay concerning the procedures that preceded and accompanied that trial. We fear that some of what happened at that time will be repeated, and we want to make sure that no confessions have been extracted by torture or psychological or physical intimidation. We seek only justice, total honesty and neutrality by the executive organs and the judiciary in order to entrench the people's confidence in their establishments and their ability to establish justice, and implement the law honestly particularly prior to the parliamentary elections. We are in dire need of entrenching people's confidence in the democratic march which our dear homeland follows.

Meanwhile, several political organizations and figures have sent cables to the prime minister, interior minister, and humanitarian organizations urging them to release the detainees or bring them to trial.

Families Demand Detainees' Release

JN1308192293 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 11 Aug 93 p 1

[Text] Families of detained students of Mu'tah University have confirmed what they had earlier told AL-BILAD, that they have demanded the government release their sons or put them on trial.

One of the parents of the detained students said at a meeting of the Bani-Hasan tribes: We have learned that our sons staged a hunger strike for one month. The Red Cross knows nothing about them.

Parents also accused a Red Cross employee by the name of 'A.K. of not giving the names of their sons to officials for four months, as a Red Cross official said.

Another parent said: We only seek justice, implementation of the law, and adoption of a humanitarian approach, and not arbitrary use of authority.

Parents who attended the meeting, as well as several members of Bani-Hasan and other tribes, have agreed to call a mass meeting today, Wednesday, to take unified action.

Two Men Hanged for Spying; Two for Murder

JN1508082193 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 Aug 93 pp 1, 28

[Text] Four criminals were executed by hanging at the Suwaqah rehabilitation center at dawn yesterday in the presence of representatives from the departments concerned.

Fathi M. A. M. (48) and Muhammad S.A.B. (50), were executed after being found guilty of spying for the enemy, obtaining secrets and information to benefit the enemy, leaking classified information, and possessing firearms without license.

A royal decree had earlier been issued approving the execution of a third, Muhammad A.M., who was also found guilty of the same charge and who is still at large.

Two others were also executed. The first, Khaldun H. (22), for killing his father, his step mother, and his young

brother and stealing his father's money; and the second, Ahmad Sh., for raping and killing his mother and stealing her jewelry.

Palestinians Urged To Coordinate With Cordon States

JN1408081393 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Aug 93 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "The Resumption of Negotiations and the Required Arab Coordination"]

[Text] In light of the message Jordan received from the cosponsors, the 11th round of bilateral negotiations will be held late this month. This calls for upgrading coordination among the Arab cordon states and strengthening their readiness for a more difficult round of negotiations with Israel, especially since it has become clear during the past 10 rounds of negotiations that the United States is a full partner only in words and press statements, and that it will continue to be that way.

The Palestinian side has done well by overcoming its political crisis and starting to prepare for the negotiations while maintaining a clear vision of, and position on, the self-rule in the occupied territories and the final solution to the Palestine question.

The cordon states should expect more difficult problems from Israel at the negotiations. They also should expect the U.S. position to remain lax, and probably should expect U.S. complicity or bias toward Israel. This calls for an awareness of all expected Israeli maneuvers and procrastination. Therefore, the cordon states should continue their meetings before and during the negotiations in order to bolster coordination. At the same time they should remain constant in their positions, which are based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, especially Resolutions 242 and 338.

Hence, emphasis should be put on the need to continue Jordanian- Palestinian coordination and consultation on any new development in the negotiations, whether on the Palestinian-Israel track or on the Jordanian-Israeli track.

We believe that the political crisis that threatened to divide and weaken the Palestinian fold, as a result of the Palestinian paper that was drafted through Cairo and delivered to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, has been a strong lesson to the Palestinian side. They should benefit from this lesson and the should avoid overlooking coordination and consultation with Jordan.

It is true that we should not expect much from the 11th round of talks, whose fate is likely to be the same as previous rounds—a failure to realize any substantial progress that brings the negotiating parties any closer to peace. Coordination with the Arab cordon states remains the sole guarantee that preserves the Palestinian's rights and the stability of their positions.

'Arafat Envoy: Jericho Proposal 'Not Authorized'

JN1408205693 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali met with Hakam Bal'awi, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's envoy, in his office at the Prime Ministry tonight. Bal'awi conveyed to the prime minister a message from 'Arafat on the Palestinian leadership's meetings recently held in Tunis.

During the meeting, they discussed frameworks of mutual coordination, and worked out joint concepts of the peace process, especially since invitations have been issued to attend the 11th round of negotiations at the end of this month.

The two sides discussed ways to coordinate the meetings of the parties participating in the peace process, which will be held in the Lebanese capital, Beirut in the last third of this month. They stressed the need to enhance and bolster ways to coordinate and work out concepts necessary for joint political action. The two sides stressed the need to resume the meetings of the six joint committees that began work in Amman last month.

Dr. al-Majali touched on the outcome of the U.S. secretary of state's recent visit to the region. He lauded Jordanian-Palestinian coordination. This has reached a high degree of mutual confidence, enabling the two sides to coordinate positions on the peace process and on the topics discussed with U.S. Secretary Christopher in his recent visit.

In a press statement after the talks, Bal'awi said: I had the honor of meeting with the prime minister, and conveyed through him the greetings of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to His Majesty King Husayn. Bal'awi said that during the meeting the two sides reviewed the latest developments following the U.S. secretary of state's tour, and the date of the forthcoming round of talks, in addition to the outcome of the Palestinian leadership's recent discussions. The prime minister said he was pleased with the outcome of these meetings, Bal'awi noted.

Bal'awi stressed the importance of bolstering cooperation between Jordan and the PLO, based on mutual confidence. He pointed out that there are numerous other opportunities to increase and promote this cooperation.

Asked about the recent statements by Bassam Abu-Sharif, the Palestinian president's adviser, concerning a proposal to establish a government in Jericho, Bal'awi said: I have not heard such a proposal. The PLO has not authorized Abu-Sharif to make such statements.

Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs, and al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Palestinian ambassador in Amman, attended the meeting.

In another development, Talal al-Hasan, [Jordanian] minister of state for foreign affairs, has held a meeting with Bal'awi at the Foreign Ministry. They discussed bilateral relations and ways to promote them, in addition to coordination on various joint issues.

Envoy Departs Amman

JN1508103493 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1000 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] An envoy of Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat has left Amman, concluding a brief visit to the kingdom.

Mr. Hakam Bal'awi had conveyed a message to Prime Minister 'Abd- al-Salam al-Majali from President 'Arafat on the recent meetings of the Palestinian leadership in Tunis.

The envoy had held talks with senior Jordanian officials on bilateral coordination as regards the peace process.

The two sides stressed the need for resuming the meetings of six Jordanian-Palestinian committees formed last month.

Rejection of PLO Resignations Signals 'New Phase'

JN1408143593 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Aug 93 p 4

[From the "Jordanian Perspective" column by Dr. Musa Kilani]

[Text] The rejection by the PLO Executive Committee of the resignations of three senior members of the Palestinian delegation to peace talks with Israel signals a new phase in the 21-month Middle East peace process. Indeed, the new phase implies Israel dropping the veil it has been throwing over its clandestine contacts with the PLO in Colarado, Paris, Sweden, Norway, Romania and, most recently, closer to the Middle East in Cairo.

For many analysts, an open contact between the Israeli government and the PLO means an eventual resumption of the suspended dialogue between the Tunis-based organisation and Washington.

Seen from within the Jordanian approach to the peace process and the political intricacies that surround it, this is a welcome development since direct PLO involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian track of negotiations has been one of Amman's objectives since the peace process was launched in Madrid in October 1991.

Notwithstanding the immediate repercussions, positive or negative, of the latest upheaval in Palestinian ranks, one has to look at what prompted it and what were the roles of the various players in the affair.

The questions that have to be asked include: What was the real root of the crisis that led [to] an open rift between the PLO leadership and delegation leaders Faysal al-Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi and Sa'ib 'Urayqat? What was the Egyptian role in the affair, a role that Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa denied with such vehemence that it was too strong a denial to be believed? What sort of influence did Haydar 'Abd al-Shafi exercise through his two letters addressed to the Palestinian people? What were the personal ambitions that played a key role in formulating a policy that is crucial to the genuine interests of the Palestinian people?

Many analysts believe that tension between the PLO leadership and the delegates started to build starting with October, 1991, when a parallel Palestinian delegation appeared to assume the role of a watchdog over the delegates who attended the peace conference in the Spanish capital. The team stayed at the Spanish Fox 400 Hotel and had direct satellite communications with PLO Chairman 'Arafat, apparently giving him a blow-to-blow account of what was going on inside the conference halls and outside. The Palestinian delegation to the conference was ensconced in Vittoria Grande Hotel in Madrid, with no direct, uninterrupted access to the "Khetiar."

Mr. 'Arafat's advisor Nabil Sha'th, who headed the watchdog team, was described as the maestro of the Palestinian political orchestra while Mahmud 'Abbas, a member of the PLO Executive Committee who played a key role in formulating the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee, was called the architect of "future relations between Jordanians and Palestinians."

No doubt, the actual Palestinian delegates to the conference did not have a chance to express their frustration over being told in blunt terms to behave in a so-and-so-matter and speak so-and-so words in Madrid since it was too much of a media circus out there in the Spanish capital; and what mattered most was the euphoria over the "historic" occasion when the Israelis and Arabs sat together on a table.

By all counts, the four or five days that the Palestinian delegates spent in Madrid were too short a time to go beyond the ceremonial trimmings of the conference, which seemed to be addressing millions of television viewers around the world rather than the parties directly involved in the conflict.

In any event, frustration continued to build among the Palestinian delegates as it became clear that they were somehow relegated to the position of having to take orders from the PLO with little effective means to make their own views and voices heard. They were caught in a situation where they had to make announcements of decisions which ran contrary to the very wishes of the constituency they represented: the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

Very visibly, the influence of the PLO had started to wane in the occupied territories, particularly among the youth, who felt that their sacrifices and continued struggle against the Israeli occupiers led to nothing tangible in terms of ending their ordeal under occupation. Yitzhaq Shamir, the Israeli prime minister who had attended the Madrid conference with all the appearances

of a sincere Israeli wish to resolve the basic Middle East conflict, dealt a severe blow to the peace process when he announced after his defeat in June 1992 general elections that he had always planned to prolong the negotiation for 10 or more years while he sought to normalise relations with the non-Palestinian Arab parties to the peace talks.

Many members of the dominant Fatah group led by Mr. 'Arafat were so disillusioned with Mr. Shamir's proclamation that they left the group in disgust and joined the Islamic resistance movement Hamas since there was no guarantee that Mr. Shamir's successor Yitzhaq Rabin had any different ideas.

The desertion in the ranks of Fatah was very visible in June 1993, when Hamas defeated Fatah in many professional and student elections in Nabulus, Ramallah and Janin. Elections in Hebron were postponed when Fatah registered some 200 labourers as students and paid up to JD 1,000 each as their tuition fee.

The desperation of Fatah was clear, particularly that it had decided to spend such a sum of money at a time the PLO was finding itself cornered and forced to curtail spending in education, health and welfare for Palestinians in the occupied territories.

All said and done, the Palestinian ranks in the occupied West Bank seem to be evenly split between Fatah and Hamas compared with 80 per cent for Fatah some time ago.

The Gaza Strip had always been a Hamas stronghold.

The losing grip of the mainstream PLO in the occupied territories reflected on the peace delegates who were forced to face daily and directly the new aggressive move of the Palestinian street in the occupied lands. They were much safer in the luxury of five-star hotels in safe Arab capitals and Washington.

What added salt to the wounds was the reports from Tunis of financial improprieties as well as Stalinist-type decision making within the PLO. Mr. 'Arafat's sudden outbursts of anger at the delegates during deliberations on whether to attend the ninth round of talks in April hammered home the point that the delegates were just figures who had no choice but to follow orders.

The sacrosanct image of a PLO leadership cracked further when 'Abbas Zaki joined Sakhr Habash and Muhammad Ghunaym in denouncing the suffocating centralisation of power.

All those factors had a major influence among the peace delegates, who also realised that they stood no chance of convincing the Palestinians in the occupied territories—despite their own convictions to the contrary—that cantonisation was a national substitute for liberation. The map of Palestine, if the Tunis version of a solution were allowed sway, would resemble a leopard's skin with black and white Israeli settlements and Arab villages separate from each other.

It is this factor which made Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi call for a collective leadership of the PLO and democratic reforms as well as a total revision of the Palestinian decision-making. That also explains why Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, regardless of all arguments related to immediate points in the peace talks, demanded that the peace process be suspended. The PLO had lost so much support in the occupied territories by then that none of the delegates could even dream of arguing that they were following orders from the PLO, which is theoretically the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, within and outside the occupied territories.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi saw no point in participating in the multilateral negotiations since, in his own words the regional talks amounted to a short-cut to normalisation of relations between Israel and the Arab states while the Palestinian cause languished somewhere in the corridors of Washington and the streets of the West Bank and Gaza.

In one of his public letters to the Palestinian masses, the respected physician from Gaza called "the rearrangement and reorganisation of our homes before engaging ourselves with other issues."

It was the reflection of a realisation that Palestinian blood would flow in the streets of Palestine if the Gaza-first option was exercised, as the PLO showed every intention to accept the Israeli- inspired proposal without going through the much-needed exercise of sounding out the Palestinian masses through dialogue. Such a dialogue will obviate any chance of Hamas-Fatah clashes in the Gaza Strip if, for some miracle, Israel were to withdraw its military forces from the Strip.

The addition of Jericho to the Gaza-first option is too insignificant to appease West Bankers, who no longer attach much importance to Mr. 'Arafat, who has been reported as saying that he would be in as much control of Palestinian affairs while reigning from Gaza and Jericho as he was when he was in al-Fakihani and controlled events in Lebanon before the Israeli invasion of 1992 ended his supremacy there.

This perspective of Mr. 'Arafat made the PLO leadership in Tunis appear much more moderate and conciliatory than the peace delegates themselves in a unique anomaly in any political development in the Middle East.

Though it is positive to have a new PLO department to be entrusted with the task of handling the peace delegation, the questions that remain unaddressed is how the PLO is going to recoup its political losses in the occupied territories.

Mr. Rabin, riding on what Israel portrays as the success of its "operation accountability" in Lebanon, is in a better position to start a dialogue with the PLO. If Washington follows suit, as is expected in a scenario along this line of thinking, we might find a more stable track of negotiations to carry Palestinian aspirations.

Perhaps, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher could even the credited with sparking, wittingly on unwittingly, a chain of events that eventually leads to cleaning the Palestinian air.

In the final analysis, however, the net outcome of the entire political exercises, including the negotiations, will depend on the Israeli state of mind to make the concessions necessary to bring peace to the region.

Parallel to the Palestinian political developments, Egypt is uneasy now. Signs are emerging that Cairo was more interested in facilitating agreements between Israel and Syria and Lebanon, leaving the Palestinians out in the cold with half-cooked solutions which could only foster dissent and disarray on the Israeli- Palestinian track of negotiations.

Seen from Cairo, any revamping of the Palestinian scene towards a coherent position supported by the Palestinian street could be detrimental to its interest, given the fact that Egypt is trying to assume the role of an undisputed regional power which could make or break Arab politics and consolidate its self-styled posture as the only power able to deliver the Palestinians.

The vehemence with which Mr. Musa denied reports that Cairo played a key role in conveying ideas and position papers between the PLO and the U.S. can be nothing but a reflection of the alarm that Cairo felt over the course of events on the Palestinian scene.

On the [one] hand, Cairo wants to reinforce its position with Washington as a strong lever to pry Palestinians from firm positions. On the other, it does not want to be seen as having leaned on the Palestinians to accept U.S.-Israeli prescribed solutions. It is a very delicate rope-trick, and given the realities on the ground today, the PLO leadership has to entertain the Egyptian overtures and try to block an explosion of the whole thing on its face.

Within the Palestinian context, however, the resignations of Mr. al-Husayni, Dr. 'Ashrawi and Dr. 'Urayqat appear to have served the first objective—of hammering home the inevitability of having to come up with a strong Palestinian strategy in the peace talks acceptable to the Palestinian street. It is too early to say whether the PLO leadership is mentally disposed to seek such a strategy, which, no doubt, will add a totally new concept to the peace process and scramble the scenario Israel has been trying to build since Madrid.

Prime Minister Al-Majali on Electoral Law Amendments

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[Interview with Jordanian Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali by In'am Kujjaji in Amman; date not given]

[Text] [Kujjaji] There is much talk among average Jordanians about possible amendments to the Electoral Law, and about the possible introduction of the one-man one-vote system. Is it true that your government supports the introduction of such amendments into the current law?

[Al-Majali] Four years ago, when the Jordanian Electoral Law was issued and enforced, and when elections were held in accordance with this law, I had a chat with His Majesty King Husayn. As a private citizen, I informed the king of my views vis-a-vis this law, saying that the law is gravely flawed, and that the flaws of the law make it impossible to render all Jordanians equal before the law, in terms of rights and duties, as provided for in the Constitution. This is because the citizen's rights vary according to his place of residence. For, if he lives in Karak, for instance, he has the right to elect seven Muslim candidates and two Christians. But if he lives in Jarash, he has the right to elect only two candidates. This means that parliamentary representation is contingent upon the citizens' place of residence. I personally believe this to be wrong, even if such a law was justified on legal, constitutional, and humanitarian grounds.

The second point I would like to make is that people elect a candidate for his ideas, capabilities, and also for his perceived ability to render the services that they need. I held this view when I was only a director, and also when I was a minister. I also voiced this view when I became a university president. And here I am repeating it while I am holding the position of prime minister. If people are convinced of my views in this regard, that would be my wish. If not, I cannot impose my views on them.

I have not so far presented the issue to the Council of Ministers. Nevertheless, it seems there are people who believe that I will impose the one-man one-vote system on the Council. This is untrue. Another factor which we should not overlook in this regard concerns the directives of his majesty the king, the leader of this country. His majesty the king believes that the current Electoral Law is flawed. But, at the same time, he said that any changes to the law will not be introduced before such changes are debated within the context of a dialogue. If people demonstrate a desire for change, that would be most welcome. If not, such changes will not be introduced.

[Kujjaji] Then, proposed amendments are not part of an attempt to contain opposition parties and rob them of potential seats they could win?

[Al-Majali] No. This can never be the case. Those who hold such views do so for their own reasons. If the people choose to elect some candidates, we will not interfere with their choice. The elections will reflect the height of honesty; and the parliament must truly express the people's views.

[Kujjaji] Why do some parties, particularly the Muslim Brotherhood, oppose this amendment?

[Al-Majali] This might have something to do with the attempt by some candidates to win parliamentary seats, capitalizing on the popularity of other candidates who are loved, trusted, and held in high esteem by the community; and this is allowed according to the current Electoral Law.

[Kujjaji] I understand from what you are saying that the amendment has not been decided on yet?

[Al-Majali] Indeed, it has not been submitted to the Council of Ministers yet. However, the clamor over this amendment was created by people who seek sensationalism, which is something common in political circles.

Here, I would like to reiterate that my personal point of view is one thing and the government's point of view is another. The amendment will not be presented for discusssion unless the Council of Ministers supports it. This is something that has not happened yet.

[Kujjaji] If the government decided to amend the Electoral Law, will there be enough time remaining?

[Al-Majali] The constitution is clear about this issue. It permits amendments during the last four months of the current Parliament's term of office. The current Parliament's term of office ends on 25 November 1993. Hence, the amendment is permissible.

[Kujjaji] Shouldn't the Parliament approve this amendment?

[Al-Majali] If the Parliament is still in office, then a law cannot be adopted or amended without its approval. However, if the Parliament is not in office, then the Constitution entrusts this issue to the executive authority in order to assess what it believes is in line with the public interest. The right to pass a law is a parliamentary right secured by the Constitution. However, no branch of government should dominate the other. The executive authority is not allowed to dominate the legislative authority and vice versa. The Constitution is very clear on this.

[Kujjaji] You have 20 parties in Jordan, which is a unique phenomena in our Arab world. How do you explain some parties' seeking of financial help from the state?

[Al-Majali] Whoever establishes a party must seek people to join his party and obtain their cooperation, support, and donations. Any party that can enlist people to its side must find financial support from its advocates. However, if the government wants to support parties, then there is no doubt that it will offer equal support to all parties regardless whether the party is big or small. In general, there are many problems obstructing government support for parties. There may be certain governments that provide financial support for their parties, but I do not know of any governments that give money to parties in general. I have not heard of this in my life.

[Kajjaji] Don't you think that it is beyond Jordan's limits to license more than 20 parties?

[Al-Majali] I think that the number is quite high, especially when we look at the bases of these parties. They are very close and the parties can generally be divided into three groups: Religious, pan-Arabist, and secular-leftist. I believe that, in the end, people will stand behind the party they support and believe in. I don't agree with the people who say that democracy started in this country only three or four years ago and that parties did not exist before then. At no point in the history of Jordan has any party with a philosophy and system based on an understanding of the Jordanian entity applied for a license and then not been allowed to function. Most of the parties that applied for licenses then were either directed or financed from abroad. Therefore, they were not allowed to function. It has been said that it was undemocratic not to allow them to function.

[Kajjaji] In each county, there is a party called the government or the ruling party. Does Jordan have such a party?

[Al-Majali] His majesty the king is above all parties and he is for all Jordanians—for the Left, Right, and Center. When parties grow and become established, the administrative staff in a government may come from these parties. This means there will be a party in power and a party in opposition. The Constitution does not require his majesty the king to ask the majority party to form a government. The Constitution is based on the personal independence of citizens and Jordan is a country with limited resources. It is different from France or Europe, for example. Jordan is part of the Arab and Muslim worlds, and they both influence its directions; while Italy, for example, does not influence the directions of France, Germany, or Britain. The situation is different from one country to another.

[Kujjaji] Since we are discussing the Arab and Islamic state of affairs, do you think that the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon is the straw that may break the negotiations' back?

[Al-Majali] I do not believe so. We either need peace, or we do not. If we need it, then we have to proceed on the course that leads to it. If we can do without it, then we should not proceed on the road leading to peace. This is irrespective of what is taking place.

The peace we seek is the peace that can prevent attacks such as the one that recently took place. We negotiate to prevent their occurrence and to halt the practices Israel carries out in the occupied territories. Our peace undertaking is an essential issue. We had hoped that the atmosphere around us would help us carry out the negotiations—that it would not be poisoned by the bad and violent practices that took place recently. From this premise, the aggression against Lebanon, irrespective of Israel's justifications, is unsound, because it poisons the negotiations and allows pressure to be used.

[Kujjaji] Were you fully convinced that the negotiations would lead to peace when you entered them?

[Al-Majali] We are fully convinced of our rights. We believe that negotiations are one of the methods we should use to attain these rights. We also believe that the option of war is not available now.

You should remember that the atmosphere for peace between us and the other party are different than those prevailing three years ago when the Cold War was still going on. The conflict between the Arabs and Israel was an essential part of the Cold War.

Now that The Cold War has ended, the equation has changed. We see that the party that used to support the other side has started to change its strategy in the region. It is no longer in a conflict with another superpower. It now has an interest in peace, because it wants to benefit from the energy that exists in the region—energy that cannot be exploited in a tense atmosphere. From this premise, that superpower has now an interest in reaching a solution. For such a solution to be lasting and firm, it should be as just a solution as possible. The change in the equation has also made the Israeli strategy diverge from the U.S. strategy, particularly during the previous Israeli leadership's term in office. One of the reasons for the change in Israeli political leadership is that it was not in line with the new state of affairs.

[Kajjaji] Has "Israel" fully recognized the British mandate border with Jordan? Is this all Jordan demanded as far as the Jordanian delegation's talks with "Israel" are concerned?

[Al-Majali] We must acknowledge the fact that we are Jordanians, Arabs, and Muslims, but we must not mix up the cards. I cannot negotiate on behalf of the Arabs, the Muslims, or the Palestinians. This, unfortunately, is the reality. This reality, however, does not mean that I should negotiate independently because this would not be in my interest. Therefore, there will be no peace treaty without all the parties concerned.

Jordan, of course, has some of its territory occupied. Land is dear, and even if it is only an inch of soil, one inch, we must not relinquish it. The other party has violated the borders between us, and the negotiations will reveal the extent to which the other party recognizes these borders. However, the agenda that we embrace in our negotiations stipulates that the border between us and them is based principally on the borders that existed during the mandate.

Here I must note that one of the basics on the agenda, which the Jordanian delegation has achieved, is our right to waters. This is a very serious thing indeed, because the 1967 war was fought over water, and not many people realize that.

Among the other basics is the fact that we are the country hosting the largest number of [Palestinian] refugees in the world. It is essential to find a solution to this problem.

There are other basics: We should not be attacked. We support the Palestinian side and there should be no delay. The refugee problem should be resolved, and Resolution 242 should apply to the Palestinians. Israel should withdraw from the occupied Palestinian territories.

We will not sign a peace treaty without the Palestinians succeeding in getting what they want. The same goes for the other Arab parties. We will not sign a separate solution without them.

[Kajjaji] Can we understand from this that the negotiations are almost over as far as the Jordanian delegation is concerned, and that you are only waiting for progress by the other parties?

[Al-Majali] During our march, we were looking around us to see the progress our brothers made, but, at the same time, we took the opportunity to reach a solution. We told the United States, "Israel," and the entire world that we cannot progress any further without some success on the Palestinian and the other Arab tracks. We have proved during the negotiations that we were serious, practical, and logical, and we managed during the past two rounds to win international support for our viewpoint.

[Kujjaji] With respect to Jerusalem, what is the realistic, practical, and logical way to settle the Jerusalem issue?

[Al-Majali] The issue of Jerusalem is extremely sensitive. That's why it was agreed to postpone this issue to the final stage of the negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis. We are like the student who sits for a test. He chooses to answer the questions he knows first and leaves the difficult ones for last. Nevertheless, he will not hand in his paper before answering all of the questions.

We will not reach a final solution without Jerusalem. There is no Arab or Muslim who will accept a solution where the return of Jerusalem is not an essential point.

[Kujjaji] How optimistic are you on this point?

[Al-Majali] If there is solidarity among the Arabs and if they are supported, then they will obtain all that they want. I am always optimistic.

[Kujjaji] What about King Husayn's meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton?

[Al-Majali] You know that because the Jordanian stand on the Gulf was misinterpreted, we were severely punished. Our punishment was perhaps less than that inflicted on Iraq only by a few degrees. We feel that we are being punished for a crime we did not commit. We disagree in principle, with the idea that one country can occupy another country's land by force. We in Jordan

suffer from the occupation of our land. How then can we accept the principle of occupation?

Following the events in Kuwait, we said publicly that this is an Arab issue and that we should settle it within an Arab framework to avoid all the adverse reactions. King Husayn loudly issued one warning after another, and what he warned against took place.

Western media disseminated reports that we supported the occupation and the invasion and that we were against Kuwaiti rights.

We took the initiative and explained our real stand without ever departing from our principles and without fearing retribution. The world came to understand our stand and relations are now returning to their state before the Gulf war.

[Kujjaji] Are there any behind the scenes moves to clear the atmosphere between Jordan and the Gulf states?

[Al-Majali] We declare everything we do. We are extending our hand to all the brothers. We are aware that differences may arise among brothers because of some misinterpretation or the interference of some bad elements that thrive on differences. However, differences will disappear and things will return to normal. For our part, as I said, we are extending our hand to respectfully shake that of our brothers without doing so at the expense of our dignity.

We have suffered a lot in Jordan. Since 1948, our people have faced tragedies that were much greater than our country's capability. However, we steadfastly endured these tragedies.

[Kujjaji] What is the current condition of Jordanian-Iraqi relations? Has the tension ended?

[Al-Majali] Tension only existed in the minds of journalists. We fully support the Iraqi people, the unity of Iraq, and freedom and democracy. We will not allow ourselves to interfere in Iraq's domestic affairs just as we hope that no one will interfere in our affairs.

We are also a UN member state that received a bitter punishment that goes beyond our means. Despite this, we are committed to what is being imposed on us and are carrying out our commitments in a correct manner. The brother Iraqis are aware of this and they appreciate it. Jordan is Iraq's life line and Iraq is our strategic depth. These ties cannot be broken. However, we are committed to UN resolutions and laws even though we believe that the Iraqi people do not deserve this punishment.

[Kujjaji] Whoever visits your country will notice a construction and commercial boom. What does Jordan lack in order to fully recover?

[Al-Majali] Our economy depends on six things: agriculture, industry, Arab aid, foreign aid, expatriates' remittances, and services offered by the state.

Unfortunately, all of these are affected by the political situation prevailing in the region. For instance, we improved the agricultural sector but the closure of the markets led the agricultural sector to a disaster. The same thing happened with the industrial sector. Despite this, we are committed to the economic reforms we have agreed to with the World Bank, and despite the criticism directed at us.

Our situation is difficult, but the secret behind Jordan's survival is the close relationship between the leadership and people. The wise outlook of both parties stands behind what has shaped this country.

Japanese Officials Visit, Discuss Peace Process

'Senior' Official Reviews Multilaterals

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[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—A senior Japanese official wound up a three-day visit to Jordan Friday after talks with senior officials here on bilateral issues as well as the 21-month-old Middle East peace process and reiterating Tokyo's support for the Arab stand that any peace settlement with Israel should be based on U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

Toshimori Shigie, head of the Middle East and Africa Department at the Tokyo foreign ministry, is preparing his country for the next round of the multilateral talks which are part of the peace process, said the Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Yuji Ikeda.

"Mr. Shigie reviewed with senior Jordanian officials the progress in the multilateral talks and familiarised himself with Jordan's positions on the various issues being discussed," said the ambassador, noting that Japan was an active player in the regional discussions which involve water-sharing, refugees, economic cooperation and arms control in addition to chairing a working group on the environment.

Mr. Shigie's talks here amounted to "a general assessment of various issues ahead of the next round of the multilateral talks," he told the JORDAN TIMES.

Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, who is also foreign minister, and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal al-Hasan held talks with Mr. Shigie Thursday.

The talks included "a review of the peace process and its bilateral and multilateral phases, and Japan's positive role in the process," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Petra quoted the Jordanian officials as reaffirming the Kingdom's commitment of the peace process "as a means to achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace based on Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied

Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and the restoration of Palestinian rights, including the right to self-determination."

The officials also expressed satisfaction with Jordanian-Japanese relations, Petra said.

Ambassador Ikeda said Mr. Shigie also discussed bilateral Jordanian-Japanese issues, but "not in specific terms" and that the two sides agreed to seek means to further cooperation in various fields.

Planning Minister Ziyad Fariz briefed Mr. Shigie on Jordan's socio-economic programmes. The Japanese official told Petra that his government was prepared to consider assisting Jordan's programmes, particularly in tourism and the environment.

Mr. Shigie, who was visiting the ancient Nabatean city of Petra Friday, was scheduled to leave for Egypt later in the day. He will also visit Israel.

In comments carried by the local press, the Japanese official was quoted as reaffirming his country's belief that any Arab-Israeli peace settlement should be based on U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and the need for international support and encouragement for the peace process.

Mr. Shigie also said Japan was exerting all possible efforts and stood ready to provide the necessary financial and economic support in cooperation with the international community to improve the Palestinian economy in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He also noted that his visit to the Middle East comes ahead of meetings of the multilateral working committees on water and the environment in November.

Japan is believed to be envisaged as one of the key contributors to an international economy development plan, for the occupied territories. Initial plans, included in a World Bank report, call for injecting up to $1.2 billion in international contributions into the occupied territories. The total programme is estimated to be worth $10 billion.

Scant information is available on the World Bank report, but sources familiar with the draft said it provides a sector-to-sector evaluation of the economy of the Palestinians in the occupied territories and recommends a host of projects aimed at creating employment and setting up services in education and health. "In general terms, it also specifies a priority list of industrial production and investments," said a Palestinian source, adding that the report was now undergoing "fine-tuning."

Meanwhile according to Petra, the director of the First Middle East Division at the Japanese foreign ministry, Akio Tanaka, is expected to arrived in Amman today (Saturday) on a three-day official visit.

During his stay in the Kingdom, Mr. Tanaka will hold talks with the minister of state for foreign affairs, the secretary general of Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and the president of the Higher Council for Science and Technology.

The Japanese official will discuss Jordanian-Japanese cooperation in economic and other fields.

Tanaka Arrives on 3-Day Visit

JN1508063993 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Akio Tanaka, director of the First Middle East Division at the Japanese Foreign Ministry, arrived in Amman this evening on an official three-day visit to Jordan.

During the visit, the Japanese official will hold talks with the minister of state for foreign affairs, the director general of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, and the director of the Higher Council for Sciences and Technology. Talks will deal with the scope of bilateral cooperation and ways to bolster and develop it in various fields, particularly in the economic, touristic, and technical fields, in addition to a number of political issues of mutual concern.

Received by al-Hasan

JN1508123593 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal al-Hasan has received at his office Mr. Akio Tanaka, director of the First Middle East Division at the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

Mr. Tanaka is currently visiting Jordan to get acquainted with Jordan's views on the Middle East peace process, particularly the multilateral talks, as Japan is the head of the working group on environment in these talks.

Mr. al-Hasan reiterated Jordan's constant commitment to the peace process on the basis of United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338, bartering land for peace, and Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem.

He said that the multilateral talks are supplementary to the efforts aimed at reaching peace. Mr. al-Hasan paid tribute to Japan's assistance to Jordan in the field of development as well as Japan's support of the peace process in the region.

Mr. Tanaka, on his part, expressed Japan's appreciation of the effective and constructive Jordanian role in the peace process, as well as his admiration for the great role performed by His Majesty King Husayn with the aim of establishing just, comprehensive, and durable peace in the Middle East.

During the meeting, a review was also made of bilateral relations and ways of promoting them in all areas.

The meeting was attended by the Japanese ambassador in Amman and a number of Jordanian Foreign Ministry officials.

UN Official Arrives To Evaluate Damage in South

NC1408174493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Jan Eliasson, emergency relief coordinator of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator's Office, arrived in Beirut at 1600 today from Paris, on a visit to Lebanon. He said at Beirut Airport that during this visit he will work directly with the UN mission to inspect Lebanon's needs and evaluate the damages for rehabilitation and reconstruction purposes. He affirmed the solidarity of the United Nations with those who were harmed from the recent events. On Resolution 425, Eliasson said this resolution, which asserts Lebanon's sovereignty and the independence of its territories, remains the principle for international law.

At 1800 today, Mr. Eliasson visited President Ilyas al-Hirawi in B'abda Palace. At 1900, he will meet Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri in Quraytim. At 1000 tomorrow, he will meet with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri in al-Musaylih. The meeting will be followed by a tour of the south for Eliasson to inspect the damages there. At 0900 on Monday, Mr. Eliasson will meet with Health Minister Marwan Hamadah, and at 1000 on Monday with Elie Hubayqah, minister of social affairs and water and electrical resources.

Arab League Secretary General Pays Official Visit

Makes Statement Upon Arrival

NC1408093693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0817 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] We have just received the following report from the news desk:

The official talks between Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz started at the Foreign Ministry a short while ago.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid arrived at Beirut International Airport at 1035 today. He is accompanied by his assistant Ambassador Ahmad 'Adil and Lebanon's representative to the Arab League Ambassador 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sulh. The Arab League head was received at the airport by Foreign Minister Buwayz and Egypt's Ambassador to Beirut Abu-Zayd 'Umar.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid had the following to say at the airport:

[Begin recording] ['Abd-al-Majid] I would like to express my happiness at this visit to fraternal Lebanon and at my meeting with his excellency the president, the prime minister, and dear brother the foreign minister.

There is no doubt but that significant events have occurred in Lebanon. Also, there is no doubt the Arab response during the Arab League Council's emergency meeting in Damascus was swift and spontaneous, commensurate with the level and danger of the events. I have come here to discuss ways to expedite the implementation of the Council's resolutions. I must seize this opportunity and I am quite prepared to do everything possible to ensure the implementation of the resolutions adopted in Damascus.

I will also see to it that these resolutions remedy some of the extremely regrettable damage that has been inflicted on south Lebanon.

[Unidentified correspondent] Your Excellency, there is information about a joint Arab tour that you and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri will make. Has a date for this tour been set and have the countries that will be covered by this tour been named?

['Abd-al-Majid] Actually, I have come here to hold consultations and I am open for any ideas. No doubt, this tour is necessary regarding the implementation of the resolution. However, things will become clearer after I meet with the prime minister.

[Correspondent] Will the discussions deal with the 11th round of peace negotiations?

['Abd-al-Majid] I am ready to discuss any topics concerning my brothers here. The Arab League's position is known. The Arab League supports the peace process in accordance with a resolution adopted in December 1991. The Arab League is anxious to see the Arabs continue the peace process because it is in our interest that peace and stability be achieved in this region.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, as for the assistance decided upon for Lebanon at the Damascus meeting, will this assistance be practically implemented or will it remain ink on paper like the previous ones?

['Abd-al-Majid] I hope that the implementation will be complete, commensurate with the level of the event. The response in Damascus was encouraging. I believe and I hope that this time we will be able to achieve what we hope for to support Lebanon.

[Correspondent] We would like to hear the Arab League's stand on the issue of resistance [words indistinct].

['Abd-al-Majid] Resistance against any occupation is legitimate. We must be convinced of this. Occupation must be resisted as long as it continues to exist. I believe that this is a popular, government, and international request. This actually is our stand.

[Correspondent] South Lebanon continues to bleed and the Israeli enemy continues to violate Lebanese airspace everyday. In fact, the Lebanese have complaints about the role of Arab diplomacy toward public opinion with regard to the implementation of Resolution 425. What can be said about the Arab League's role in urging the world to implement this resolution?

['Abd-al-Majid] We must mobilize all the friendly forces and also those calling for peace, justice, and stability in

this region. Regarding diplomatic action, which is basically the Arab League's responsibility in cooperation with member states, I believe that this has been done. The Israeli aggression against the south was denounced and condemned by the whole world, even by Israel's friends. Israel was in fact really isolated. We still believe that this aggression had to be condemned, that it had to be stopped, and that its consequences had to be dealt with in the way agreed upon at the Arab League Council's meeting in Damascus.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] the Arab action is so far limited to some aid, such as medicine, blankets, and tents. A joint and unified Arab strategy toward the situation in the south has been approved in more than one Arab meeting. Why this Arab absence in deeds?

['Abd-al-Majid] First, I look at events now and see with joy the Lebanese Army's role. On this occasion, we of course hail the Lebanese Army's role and what it has done and is doing for its country. We are encouraged by the Lebanese Army's deployment in the south and by the inhabitants' welcome of the Army presence. This phenomenon deserves to be supported and encouraged. It is a new phenomenon and the start of an action that will lead to stability in this region. [Words indistinct] to continue and to discuss all the possible ways and means. [end recording]

On his part, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said:

[Begin recording] [Buwayz] We welcome his excellency our friend and brother Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the Arab League secretary general. In view of his status, credibility, and moral position, we in the Arab countries believe that he will do what has to be done to implement the Arab League's resolutions on support for Lebanon. We also believe that this occasion is a new opportunity for the Arab countries to prove the required solidarity with Lebanon, which is paying a price on behalf of all the Arab countries in these difficult times. We are aware of the difficulties the Arab countries are going through and also of the facts and sensitivities that are affecting the Arab countries, but we believe that the Lebanese issue and specifically Lebanon could be the point of convergence and of restoration of cohesiveness among the Arab countries. The Arab cause could also be the common ground for restoring Arab unity in the face of the challenges.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister. We are on the threshold of the 11th round of the peace negotiations. Has Lebanon held contacts to convene a meeting of the cordon states in Beirut to coordinate positions? Is there a specific date for this meeting?

[Buwayz] Of course, now that the notion of the upcoming negotiations has taken shape, we will hold quick contacts to set the date for an Arab meeting that might be held in Lebanon shortly before the talks are resumed. [end recording]

Comments on Meetings With Leaders

NC1408172093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Statement by Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid following his meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi at the Republican Palace in B'abda on 14 August—recorded]

[Text] I would like to express my happiness at being in Lebanon today. My meetings with the president, the prime minister, and the foreign minister were fruitful, useful, and important. The Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon created serious consequences for Lebanon, the region, and the peace process. The Arab foreign ministers' conference in Damascus was quick and spontaneous; it expressed support for Lebanon and denounced the Israeli aggression. I began my consultations this morning and will continue them this afternoon. I can say there is full agreement to implement the conference resolution. An Arab League envoy will immediately carry messages from me to the Arab states asking them to implement the resolution.

The Arab League is eager to do its utmost to see to it that this resolution is implemented and respected. I affirm our desire to ensure that this resolution is implemented. This springs from the feelings and stands expressed at the Damascus meeting. Undoubtedly, the Lebanese Army's current deployment in the south is an important development and an indication of the Lebanese Army's ability to play its role. The Arab League supports Lebanon in its efforts to face the consequences of the Israeli aggression. These are the main goals we seek to implement within the framework of the Arab League and in coordination with the Lebanese Government. This is the gist of the consultations that I began this morning and will continue this afternoon.

Praises Army Deployment, Departs

NC1408174393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has concluded his talks in Beirut. These included meetings with the three government leaders and the foreign minister. He left Beirut for Cairo on board a private plane at 1845 today.

His last meeting was with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri in al-Musaylih. 'Abd-al-Majid announced that he will seek to ensure that the resolution of the recent Arab Council meeting is implemented.

[Begin 'Abd-al-Majid recording] Today's consultations will be continued in the future. A high-level Arab League envoy will soon begin a mission to implement the Arab foreign minister's resolution. This is a summary of the discussions held today. I repeat my thanks and appreciation for what I heard and saw. I wish again to hail the

Lebanese Army's deployment in the south. The major task it has begun to carry out deserves appreciation and respect. [end recording]

Meeting Held With Syria To Evaluate Situation

NC1408165493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] A Lebanese-Syrian military meeting was held today at Minister of Interior Bisharah Mirhij's home in Duhur al-Shuwayr to evaluate the situation from the security and military standpoints, especially after the recent battle in the south, according to Mirhij. On the Lebanese side, aside from Mirhij, the meeting was attended by Deputy Chamber Speaker Elie al-Firzli; Prosecutor General Munif 'Uwaydat; Military Prosecutor General Nasri Lahhud; the chiefs of the Internal Security Forces, Public Security Forces, and State Security Forces; and Army Chief of Staff Brigadier General Riyad Taqiy-al-Din representing the Army commander. On the Syrian side, the meeting was attended by Major General Sa'id Bayraq Dar, commander of the Syrian Arab Forces in Lebanon, and Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an.

Paper Alleges 'Silent Crisis' With Syria on Deployment

NC1408133793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1142 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Beirut, 14 Aug (MENA)—The Lebanese newspaper AL-SAFIR said today that there is a crisis between the Syrian and Lebanese leaderships. The paper described this crisis as a 'silent crisis'.

The newspaper claimed that the origin of this crisis goes back to some lack of coordination between the two countries regarding the Lebanese Government's decision to deploy the Lebanese Army in the UN Interim Force in Lebanon's area of operations in the south, which was implemented last Monday [9 August] without Damascus being informed of its timing and effects.

In its report, AL-SAFIR cites criticism voiced by some officials in the Syrian Government of this decision and the timing of its issuance and implementation.

The newspaper cited these Syrian officials as saying that the dangers of this decision to deploy the Army can be traced back to the fact that it casts suspicions on our achievement to establish a cease-fire in south Lebanon recently without making any concessions. This decision will give the impression that it is a part of a deal in which Damascus is a party, although there was no such deal in the contacts with Washington. These contacts culminated in a cease-fire in south Lebanon in return for stopping Katyushas falling on the Israeli settlements.

AL-SAFIR's report on this silent crisis between Beirut and Damascus has been published ahead of an expanded summit meeting to be held on 16 August in Latakia between the two political leaderships of the countries to discuss bilateral relations and coordinating the political stands on the peace process and the new developments in the Lebanese arena.

Information Minister: Army Will Not Suppress Resistance

NC1408165193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Information Minister Michel Samahah has reiterated that Lebanon will not give up its right to resist in order to liberate its occupied territories in the south and western al-Biqa'. He said that the Lebanese Army, which guarantees stability and protects the citizens' possessions, will never become a tool to suppress the resistance.

Samahah added that continuing the peace negotiations aims to regain the occupied territories and establish the state's authority everywhere in the homeland.

Speaking at a Lions Club banquet honoring the editors' doyen, Samahah pointed out that free media have a basic role in the battle of steadfastness and disclosure of facts. He added that he backs responsible freedom of the media both at home and abroad.

Resistance Statement on Attack on Israeli Patrol

NC1408071093 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Statement by the Islamic Resistance on 14 August]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Fight them, and God will punish them by your hands, cover them with shame, help you to victory over them, and heal the breasts of believers. [Koranic verse]

Fulfilling our pledge to stay on the path of jihad and liberate the land of its usurpers, in memory of the martyrs, and on the 40th day of the anniversary of the prince of martyrs, [Prophet Muhammad's grandson] al-Husayn, peace be upon him, the Group of Martyrs Samir Milhim and Hasan Hashim, at 1615 yesterday, detonated an explosive charge on al-Rayhanah-al-'Ayshiyah road, as an infantry patrol of the Zionist enemy was passing. The blast left numerous enemy personnel killed or wounded. The enemy was in a state of hysteria and combed the site of the operation.

The Islamic Resistance vows to its blessed martyrs to chase the usurping enemy and deal heavy blows to it until the liberation of our usurped land.

Radio Reports 3 Israeli Soldiers Killed

NC1608093493 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] The Islamic Resistance has issued a statement claiming responsibility for two operations targeting two Israeli patrols in the Shihin area inside the occupied border strip. The statement said that the attacks certainly left three Israeli soldiers dead and six others

injured. The statement noted that five Israeli helicopters made a landing attempt [as heard] in the area to evacuate the casualties.

Islamic Jihad Official Escapes Murder in Beirut

NC1508164593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine has stated that Muhammad Abu-Samra, the movement's official in Lebanon, recently escaped an assassination attempt in Beirut. The movement accused Israel and its agents of perpetrating this operation.

A statement issued by the movement in Beirut today said that Abu-Samra was subjected to an assassination attempt in West Beirut a few days ago. Six gunmen driving in two cars opened fire on him but failed to hit him. The statement added that Abu-Samra's bodyguards exchanged fire with the assailants and chased them, injuring one of them and capturing two others.

The movement called for suicide operations against Israel. It also threatened U.S. interests in the Middle East in retaliation for the Israeli aggression against Lebanon.

AL-SAFIR Interviews President al-Asad

Part One

NC1308162593 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 12 Aug 93 pp 1, 11

[First part of a report on an interview with President Hafiz al-Asad by AL-SAFIR chief editor Talal Salman, in Damascus; date not given]

[Text] [Salman] The door opens wide and Hafiz al-Asad appears, exuding, along with his welcoming amicable smile, a feeling of reassurance: One can throw down one's burdens here. Worrying questions drop away, leaving you with a sensation of fullness, and the reassurance that you know everything about everything, from the simplest details to the most important issues.

He captivates you with his gentle apology for being late, explaining that he was busy handling issues that cannot be bargained over or hastily resolved in search of "just any solution." Issues of destiny are not handled under pressure of the "terrorism through blackmail" that might be used by the "strong." Nor are such issues handled by shirking the heavy responsibility and surrendering to the inevitable results that might be imposed by the absence of an original solution.

This man with the calm demeanor, the quiet but clear voice, who laughs with candor at amusing anecdotes, always seems ready to challenge the impossible.

What does he do in his "spare time," this man who takes it upon himself to overcome difficulties by confronting them with greater difficulties and who creates new struggle fronts far and beyond those imposed on him by the nature of the confrontation? In this way he extricates small "victories," which, accumulating, become turning points that transfer the battle to the arena where the stronger party is.

The present cannot be interpreted by the present. The bright lessons that light the way to the future lie in the past and its cruel experiences. Memory is an immense, boundless sea from which flow in great but accurate waves facts and names in a manner that leaves no room for ambiguity. The momentary pauses are only to ascertain a particular date or the full name of a particular person. The details supplied about such a person almost bring that person alive to the point that you can feel his breath in the room.

The present is everlasting. The stable reference point is the October (the crossing) war of 1973 with its tremendous political and military implications. With it you recall the bitter experience with Anwar al-Sadat and the serious journey of deviation, which exploited the martyrs' blood to open a path of sin so that instead of ourselves entering Jerusalem as liberators, he entered it to enshrine the occupation and instead of regaining Sinai and the Golan, we lost Egypt—an irretrievable loss.

Speaking of the war and al-Sadat, every person who played a role in those events is remembered now: Muhammad Fawzi, Ahmad Isma'il, and also al-Jamasi's memoirs [former defense minister, defense minister and Armed Forces commander during the 1973 war, and Armed Forces chief of operations during the 1973 war respectively], Henry Kissinger and his devious maneuvers, and Richard Nixon, whose every move and gesture was constantly monitored.

Again the war brings to mind: the Iraq of [then President] Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, the man with good intentions whose activity was obstructed by Saddam Husayn to the point where he was as good as deposed. Later Saddam would obstruct the nation's endeavor and provoke more than one pan-Arab catastrophe whose price will be paid by future generations.

This was followed by Lebanon's civil war, its consequences, and repercussions that are not yet over. Names and events flow out: the late [President] Sulayman Franjiyah has a special standing. All forces and parties are classified and evaluated according to experience: Imam Musa al-Sadr is especially appreciated for his historic role in ending the infernal circle of privileges. The martyr Rashid Karami [Lebanese prime minister, killed in helicopter bombing in 1987] has a more dignified place than any of the many other friends. [Former Prime Minister] Sa'ib Salam is also remembered for his great care, while fighting "communism" and "communists" to distinguish himself from the "hardline right."

The longest pause is for the memory of the Israeli 1982 invasion and its repercussions, most serious of which was the subservient 17 May Accord [of 1983, later abrogated by the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies]. Others remembered include Menachem Begin, Alexander Haig, Shultz, and the first U.S. envoy Mansfield, and finally the NATO forces that landed in Lebanon.

[Al-Asad] Some envoys came to me, from the West of course, complaining of the NATO troops' low morale. They said they were passing their days in terror, that they could not sleep, and were compelled to reinforce their positions and take shelter behind them because they feared the people around them.

I asked the envoys about those troops' positions. They specified them. I asked: How far are these positions from the sea? They said: A few hundred meters. I said: The solution is simple. Let them cross those meters and return to the sea. They will feel totally safe. I added while they listened in astonishment: They crossed thousands of kilometers to land in a country that is not their own and does not want them. The solution is simple: Let them return from where they came, or if they wish, let them stay on board their ships in the open sea. No harm will come to them there. [end al-Asad]

May President al-Asad allow me to cite another example: Another envoy mentioned the New Jersey and I said to him: We heard you talk much about this battleship, its enormous and long barrels, and the horror its 1,000-kg

shells cause. You aroused our curiosity and we were so eager to see the effects of the shells that are fired from a 1,000-mm-wide barrel. Well gentlemen, the shells cause a thunder-like boom but they will eventually fall on the ground. They may cause a deep hole, but the land will remain. It will not disappear. The land is ours and the New Jersey will go. The land will remain ours and we will stay here.

Where does this clear vision stem from when the clouds of mystery and doubt are so dense that they separate the people from their cause, imposing a difficult choice between the present and future? They may abandon their future without winning the present. Where does he derive all this firmness in his conviction when quakes are shaking the world, causing unprecedented and endless changes, with empires fallen, countries dismembered or abolished, and others created?

Time passes and he is not tired of talking. He gives various examples, opens the map, and reviews Gorbachev's experience, from which he felt the impending tragic collapse of a superpower that was necessary for maintaining a counterbalance.

U.S. envoys come and go and long and difficult confrontations continue, but the outcome is grim: There is no change except in the style. From Reagan, who once decided to open a dialogue, to the distinguished experiment with George Bush and his Secretary of State James Baker and the "peace conference" plan, and the status of this plan in the context of the continuing efforts to retrieve the occupied land and wrest the Palestinian people's right to their land.

Then comes Warren Christopher, Dennis Ross, Martin Indyk, and the rest of the bunch. The role of Edward Djerejian, the only "alien" in the delegation, who was a boss of Ross, who in turn became his boss, is relegated. Djerejian had his hands tied even when he was in his high post.

With astounding precision he says: "We are unable yet to give a sound evaluation of the new U.S. secretary of state's character. We have only met with him three times. We do not know him well enough to define a sound position on him." Al-Asad's attitude forces comparison with the position of the officials in Beirut, who since the tightly scheduled, brief meeting with Christopher amid the bombs and smoke at the Defense Ministry, spoke of him as if he were an old classmate or friend. Perhaps some of them went so far as to claim that they convinced this serious secretary of positions contrary to what he held. One is gripped by pain to compare the conduct of the Beirut officials with what one hears in Damascus about how to confront the Israeli destruction and eviction of people and the series of contacts that ended with the cease-fire agreement and all the political results. In Damascus there was no sign of panic. The minds, experience, and nerves were alert to confront the challenge. The Damascus leaders were studying the situation and developments so as to change the outcome that the aggressor sought. There was no deal: We were quite clear and unequivocal. There was no relinquishment of the resistance. This is an absolute right for anyone whose land is occupied. We can assume that we wrested a tacit recognition of the Lebanese people's right to resist to liberate their land from Israeli occupation.

[Al-Asad] The agreement is very specific and very limited: The Israeli aggression stops, and accordingly, Katyusha rockets stop. We took into consideration that Katyushas were used in reaction; they were not the cause but rather the excuse, as they have tried to make the world think. The Israeli soldiers who were killed a few days before were killed in confrontations stirred by the men of the resistance, not by Katyushas, on the occupied Lebanese soil and not within the borders of the Zionist entity.

We benefited from our awareness that the Americans had realized the magnitude of the risks involving their interests. The peace march involves interest for America as well as for us. We conveyed our stand to them clearly: That we would not continue this march under the pressure of the Israeli artillery and that taking the aggression too far might create a new reality with uncontrollable results. We would not go on restraining ourselves indefinitely. We could not close our eyes to what was happening, because what happens to Lebanon affects us as well. From the first moment we told officials in Beirut that what we had was theirs.

Steadfastness is an effective weapon; it can be more powerful than planes and guns.

With steadfastness we could make a good achievement. What counts more is to safeguard this achievement. [end al-Asad]

But Oh Beirut; what can I say about those in charge of affairs in Beirut? Did they safeguard that achievement?!

Al-Asad—how generous he is when he avoids getting into the painful talk:

[Al-Asad] We understand the position of brothers in Lebanon; they are doing their utmost. But the situation is very difficult. There is nothing more painful than civil wars; they destroy man, distort an entire generation, tear down the hierarchy of values, and dismantle the basics whose soundness is inevitable for reconstruction.

They really are in a difficult situation. We understand their confusion and fear from the impact of a devastation with such severity, vastness, and destructive power.

But we all have to safeguard and defend the resistance. We may sometimes have to guide it to enhance its effectiveness. The resistance embodies the will of the people, or rather the nation, to liberate the occupied land. All have to relieve themselves of sensitivities and fantasies. The enemy is the enemy. The available broker is not our ally; he is a friend of the enemy. True we have to try to neutralize it as much as possible, but through

their threatened interests and not under the fantasy that we could draw them to our side. [end al-Asad]

As you listen to al-Asad, with his provocative calm, you feel with the passage of time that you are getting more mature, that your will is getting stronger, and that you are now mastering great experience. Your desire to achieve a journalistic scoop retreats, becoming subordinate to a deep sense of responsibility. Only the strong make history.

The makers of states are only those who master their own decision and accept the challenge with the impossible and try to conquer it.

Without honorary titles, Hafiz al-Asad is one of those who have the honor of making relentless attempts to conquer the impossible. He often succeeded. The last of such successes was his success in confronting the recent Israeli devastation.

It was a brilliant achievement we fear might be lost in the maze of the competition to use it for personal interests or in luring offers from those who have nothing to give and who always get more than they deserve.

First and foremost, the guarantee has only one name: Hafiz al-Asad. May the Almighty preserve our guarantee.

Part Two

NC1308175593 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 13 Aug 93 pp 1, 11

[Second part of report on an interview with President Hafiz al-Asad by AL-SAFIR chief editor Talal Salman in Damascus; date not given]

[Text] [Salman] The 11th round of Arab-Israeli negotiations will not be a mere extension of the 10 previous rounds, witnessing more futile debates, wars of terms and expressions, posturing, and finally ending inconclusively just because the time set for it expires.

It will not, however, be the "decisive round," witnessing a flow of miracles, new stances brought about as if by magic, and finally seeing "peace" fluttering its wings over this turbulent region, a region that is expected to be the scene of further turbulence whether the negotiations—between enemies who are indeed enemies of geography more than enemies of history—succeed or fail, particularly if they fail.

What happens after the Israeli incursion into Lebanon will be very different from what happened before it, because this incursion introduced a U.S. role that had been missing despite the great need for it. It also provided an opportunity to the various parties to redefine their positions in light of the political consequences of the incursion, destruction, and displacement of citizens. The most notable consequence is this development of the U.S. sponsor's role, which is bound to have logical effects on the "peace process" and all its parties.

What changes have been introduced into the various stances that conflicted to the point of complete separation or ran in parallel lines, thus preventing their meeting? Are these alterations serious enough to open the closed door?

What will the U.S. role be tomorrow when the negotiations resume on the second anniversary of their opening? How noticeable will the separation be between the United States and Israel, its "strategic ally"?

How different will the Israeli negotiator's stance be from his former stance, particularly after Yitzhaq Rabin's position on Israel's political balance map has changed, producing a new situation that gives him freedom of movement and a greater ability to make decisions than before (notice that his predecessor Yitzhaq Shamir possessed this ability but did not want to use it).

Will the Palestinian negotiator find it easier in the future to achieve what he could not achieve before, not merely because of Israeli intransigence but also because of the unsettled Palestinian ranks and the serious flaw that used to beset relations within the Palestinian leadership, casting a dark shadow over the Palestinian delegation's movement? Everyone viewed this delegation as several "delegations" having conflicting loyalties, united by force of circumstance under the "direction of President Yasir 'Arafat".

Additionally, will Lebanon be able to profit from the other aspect of the catastrophe that befell it as a result of the Israeli incursion, particularly the incursion's failure to attain its political objectives as Rabin envisaged them? These would be different objectives from Rabin's success in deciding the domestic conflict with his opponents in the government in his favor.

Finally, how receptive will the Syrian stance be to all these changes and how will Syria deal with them? How does the Syrian leadership envisage the 11th round of negotiations and the period that will follow it?

What follows is an attempt to answer these questions with the available data, facts, and observations that were recorded on the sidelines of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's recent regional tour. Add to this the expectations surrounding the tour of U.S. coordinator Dennis Ross on the eve of the "first round," considering that the first 10 rounds consisted chiefly of exploring positions and unofficial discussions.

President Hafiz al-Asad has been quoted by those who met with him as saying: "We have never been opposed to the peace process or the Madrid conference formula, which required a great deal of effort to reach. Israel was the first to reject it, worked to obstruct it, and tried to scuttle it with its recent aggression against Lebanon. We would like to assume that the upcoming round will achieve positive results, particularly because we sensed that the U.S. role is becoming more serious, perhaps out of concern for the negotiations because they serve U.S. interests. Peace has always been our goal. We called for

a formula that is very close to the foundations of the Madrid conference, the UN resolutions, which we have already accepted, and the land-for-peace formula.

"We know that peace has requirements and necessary causes for which we must prepare ourselves. Wars even between enemies do not last forever. They are governed by the laws of life, balance of force, and international circumstances. There are truces and perhaps periods controlled by the provisions of peace. This applies to both parties to the war or enmity and not only to one. That is why we call for a comprehensive solution and total withdrawal for total peace. We Arabs, although we have several delegations and diverse issues, constitute one party, and Israel constitutes another.

"We will not take a unilateral step or decide something that may negatively affect our brothers and partners in the outcome. Our call for a comprehensive solution stems form the fact that we are concerned with what is offered to our Palestinian brothers and with what they accept or reject. We cannot proceed without them or overtake them. This in practice is impossible. Unless what is offered to the Palestinian is acceptable to them even as a starting point, the negotiations will remain deadlocked.

"The issue with us and Lebanon differs greatly from the issue between the Israelis and Palestinians. We demand our occupied land and no one disagrees that it belongs to us. On the international level, no one contests that the Golan is Syrian, that south Lebanon belongs to Lebanon. No one disagrees over the characterization of the Israeli occupation of these territories. But in occupied Palestine, the conflict is over identity, land, geographic jurisdiction, the Palestinian people's political rights, and their future over their land. Consequently, the conflict is very complex and it inevitably requires a framework, a starting point, and a context that will reassure the Palestinians that they will attain their demands, even if in stages, as in autonomy. After that and not before, there can be talk about the requirements and responsibilities of peace. This, however, does not exempt us from continuing to prepare ourselves and strengthen our position so as not to enable Israel to achieve under peace what it fails to achieve by force."

Where is the new U.S. position in light of the Israeli aggression against Lebanon? On the Lebanese level Christopher's latest mission was discussed with some jokes and enthusiastic statements that precluded a precise reading of developments to see the change that took place between Christopher's two trips.

Since Christopher's visit to Zahlah is an additional Syrian achievement, the Lebanese officials did not benefit enough from this opportunity. They did more talking than listening and made more noise than gains.

Perhaps the three Lebanese leaders who will travel to Damascus Monday for talks with the Syrian leaders will return with a clearer visualization and coordinate their views and moves so that neither of them may rush for results or "give" the Americans the jurisdiction of the owner of the issue. In Damascus, where there is clear vision and precise conclusions after an intelligent reading of the political map and deep understanding of the nature of the U.S.-Israeli relations, the Syrian leaders reached the following assessments:

1. Rabin went far in his action and transcended the limits allowed by the alliance with the U.S. Administration, who, no matter how sympathetic with Israel it may be, remains concerned for and committed to the U.S. interests and refuses any harm to them.

2. Rabin changed his goals of the military operation, endangering the peace process, although he initially justified it by claiming it was meant to extricate it from its impasse by striking at Hizballah, the obstructive force, and keeping troublesome Iran away.

The Americans were prompted to act by the change embodied by Rabin's statement about "creating an eviction problem by pushing thousands of the south and western al-Biqa' inhabitants toward Beirut to confuse the government and compel it to disarm Hizballah." Confusing the Lebanese Government is not an American goal. Moreover, Washington cannot afford to take the blame for conspiring with Israel to evict south Lebanon of its inhabitants, since it claims to foster the peace march.

3. Syria has presented additional evidence of its farsightedness by what U.S. President Clinton described at first as "self-restraint," by the strong pressure it put on Washington and Israel to cease fire or else ruin the peace process, and finally by its ability to play a vital role in achieving the cease-fire with its specific nature: stopping the Israeli bombardment, allowing the evacuees to return, and then stopping Katyusha attacks against settlements in Galilee inside occupied Palestine.

It is no secret that by applying pressure, Damascus speeded up Warren Christopher's return to Washington. Clinton recalled him from Singapore, instructing him to postpone his scheduled visit to Australia.

4. In view of all that, it was possible to wrest a "realistic admission" from the Americans of the Lebanese right to resist to liberate their land from the Israeli occupier. This admission culminated in recognizing "Hizballah"—if tacitly—as a party to the cease-fire agreement.

5. This eventually leads to a united stand on the Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon (and western al-Biqa') once it is decided to effect withdrawal from Golan.

It is worth noting here that Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has for a long time been repeating that the Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon is no problem, because it will be done within 24 hours at most from withdrawal from Golan.

The American role along the Syrian and Lebanese tracks will certainly be governed by the firm stand Christopher felt from the Syrian leadership: That it will be obliged to

clash with the Israelis, regardless of the consequences, if the Israeli devastation continues to destroy, kill, and evacuate.

Hence, the only viable role here is to be committed to emphasize full withdrawal, so that it is possible later to talk about arrangements for full peace.

Christopher assumed, or so he insinuated to those he met in Syria and Lebanon, that Rabin, who emerged stronger in Israel after the devastation, will be more capable of making "concessions" than the Rabin who was threatened on his right by hardline Binyamin Netanyahu of the Likud and on his left by his inveterate friend Shim'on Peres.

Christopher also assumes that now that Rabin has learned the "American lesson," he will not try again to act as though he was sure of the reaction of the U.S. Administration and that it will be behind him in any decision he makes or any adventure inspired by his going too far in "leaning" on the support of the Clinton administration.

The U.S. secretary of state impressed those he met as not being as easy to handle as he might seem. Comparing him to his predecessor James Baker, some see that Baker's strong personality was governed by his political ambitions; after all he was a politician who acted as if his eyes were set on his future in the White House. Having none of these ambitions, Christopher has more experience and knowledge and is more accurate in his expressions as well as his promises, just like any professional diplomat with rich experience in the U.S. Administration, in the UN mechanism, and in negotiations in general.

Some also noticed a difference in dealing with Christopher and with the Dennis Ross-led American team that followed him wherever he went in his tour. While Christopher was easygoing with his subordinate who enjoys the favor of the White House and the State Department, he seemed more firm in his recent tour; he imposed on Ross some restrictions (formal but important) he did not commit himself to before.

People who note this transformation interpret it as carefulness on Christopher's part to keep a clear distance between him and his team on the one hand and the Israelis on the other, even if this did not appeal to some of his team members, particularly Martin Indyk, who has become the representative of the Israeli hardliners in the American delegation. For his part, Ross has started to improve his image before the Arabs, particularly Damascus, who did not hide its suspicion of him and of his role, which goes beyond the limits; he sometimes interfered oddly in the talks to influence his boss' stand and bring it closer to the Israeli stand.

Are we up against a new Christopher? Or rather, has the U.S. Administration changed its attitude toward the Arabs and Israelis that fast and to that extent? Has this change extended to Ross, who was careful to learn about the etiquette of sitting, acting, and talking in the presence of President Hafiz al-Asad before he boarded the plane to Damascus?

Damascus has no illusions about a "coup d'etat" in Washington that favors the Arabs or a "radical change" in the U.S. stance toward Israel. Damascus does see, however, a certain "separation" of interests that "must be exploited" for the Arabs'—all the Arabs—good.

Meanwhile, Lebanese visitors to the U.S. capital report that it is being whispered in Washington that it is possible to rely on Peres and the 18 votes loyal to him to exert pressure on Rabin for the benefit of the U.S. interest in the peace process.

Statements made by the Israeli Government's two inveterate partners show a clear difference of views. The United States views this difference as a reserve force it can use at the appropriate time to wrest the needed Israeli "concession," particularly if you add the other "leftist" votes and with them the "Arabs in the occupied land."

All this is mere speculation. The actual test will come tomorrow "at the negotiating table," not in whispers in the corridors and closed rooms in Washington and elsewhere.

No one knows exactly what happened to the Palestinian leadership in Tunis or how the acute disagreement between the leadership and the Palestinian negotiating delegation was resolved, a disagreement that climaxed in something resembling a collective resignation by the delegation members.

What is certain, however, is that some of the flaws that used to hinder the performance of the Palestinian delegation will disappear, that its margin of movement will be expanded, and that Yasir 'Arafat will be forced to reduce his multiobjective interventions, which served to turn the delegation into several subdelegations, which were later rendered ineffective via secret side negotiations through other channels. In this way he used to paralyze the original negotiations without reaping any results from his back-door moves, which merely weakened and confused the delegation and produced bitter frustration in the ranks of the Palestinians in the occupied territories and indeed among Palestinians everywhere.

Countless stories are told about those back channels, their objectives, and their particular moves that merely caused further harm to the original issue.

The latest story relating to the Palestinian response to the draft U.S. plan on the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles says that the Palestinian response was, in fact, two replies that basically differed from one another. The first unofficial reply was prepared by 'Arafat and conveyed by Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to deliver directly to Warren Christopher.

The second reply was written by the Palestinian leadership in consultation with the negotiating delegation. 'Arafat sent it to Faysal al-Husayni to deliver to Christopher when he met with him in occupied Jerusalem. He did so during an official session and said: I have the honor to hand you the reply that my leadership asked me to convey to you in implementation of President Yasir 'Arafat's instructions. Christopher was courteous as he received the reply from al-Husayni, who was flanked by Hanan 'Ashrawi, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, and others. However, being courteous did not stop him from saying that he will consider this reply in particular and not the one he received through President Mubarak to be the official Palestinian one.

This was the straw that broke the camel's back. The psychological condition of the Palestinian negotiating team had deteriorated much earlier, particularly because its members lost the people's appreciation to the point that some of them were scared to face the people. They did not take part in the Arab American graduates conference that convened in Bi'r Zayt University in the West Bank, although they were invited to address it.

As one informed Palestinian source put it, 'Arafat lets the negotiating team wage a fierce battle with their arms tied behind their backs while he busies himself, through other channels, nagging the Americans to negotiate with him and recognize him. He even asked the Americans to mediate with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and other Gulf countries to lift the sanctions and resume the financial aid that he used to receive before the Gulf war. During the Gulf war, he was accused of being Saddam's ally.

Certain sources affirm that 'Arafat's bid to raise the issue of Jerusalem while the Palestinian delegation was debating along a different course was in reprisal for what he considered to be a Saudi retraction from a pledge he received through U.S. channels to resume paying financial aid.

Anyway, some time must pass before a final Palestinian stand is worked out to see if it can break through Israeli intransigence benefiting from the limited differences between the Clinton administration and Rabin's government.

It remains to be seen to what extent Lebanon is capable of benefiting from the disaster caused by the Israeli aggression. This will require a long debate and a pause, because it is difficult to discuss it apart from the Syrian view of the Lebanese Government's conduct vis-a-vis the developments of the past three weeks.

Press Not Optimistic on Prospects for Progress in Talks

JN1608111093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Press review]

[Text] Commenting on the peace process, TISHRIN asserts that Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories is the basis of the peace process.

Just as Israeli officials wasted the previous rounds raising procedural issues far removed from the essence and obligations of the peace process, Israeli rulers are trying today to circumvent the 11th round, scheduled for the end of this month in Washington, by talking about contacts already made or to be made with PLO officials, while some of them object to this approach and talk about negotiating only with representatives from the occupied territories.

Whoever follows these conflicting statements sees clearly that the Israeli rulers seek to avoid the most important obligations of the peace process.

TISHRIN goes on: The fact that cannot escape notice by any observer is that this Israeli game is a continuation of the policy of procrastination and maneuvering. The Washington talks proceed from certain foundations and aim at achieving a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East and a firm, just peace based on Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. Under these resolutions, Israel must withdraw from the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and 1982.

For their part, the Arabs have declared their willingness to make a firm, lasting peace in the region in return for full, comprehensive Israeli withdrawal. Hence, the question is not about a meeting here or there, but has to do with Israel's commitment to withdrawal.

TISHRIN adds: Had Israel wanted peace, as its rulers claim, it would have pledged, right from the first rounds, to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and remove obstacles to progress in the peace process. Israel, however, did all it could to obstruct any progress. In addition, it tried, through its sinful, treacherous aggression against Lebanon, to destroy the peace process.

TISHRIN notes that Arab participation in the 11th round will not be announced before the meeting of the foreign ministers of Arab parties to the peace process. However, it is fair to say that Israel's maneuvering will not do it any good and will not split the ranks of the Palestinian people or bring about a rift between Arab delegations.

TISHRIN concludes: No doubt, the Arabs seek a just, comprehensive peace. However, they want real peace that ends Israeli occupation, restores the occupied territories, stops Israeli belligerence in the Middle East, and upholds the principles of international law, the UN Charter, and UN resolutions.

Also commenting on the 11th round of the peace talks, AL-BA'TH says: As a date was set for holding the 11th round of peace talks, the following question must be asked: Have the necessary conditions that could lead to progress in the peace talks been made available—given

that the talks have been going on for two years without making any progress due to Israel's maneuvering?

The paper goes on: Some people think that the 11th round might make progress, especially since the U.S. Administration has pledged to exert intensive efforts to achieve progress. Others believe, however, that if Israel's position does not change the way it should, then the results of the 11th round will be no better than the previous rounds.

It is true that the U.S. Administration is somewhat optimistic about making some progress in the next round. This is its own business, as it might have certain grounds for that. Realities, however, especially Israel's actions on the ground, make us less optimistic than the U.S. Administration. The reason for that is that we have not observed any substantial change in Israel's policy. The recent Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon, followed by a large-scale settlement scheme in Jerusalem and the West Bank, not only makes us less optimistic than the U.S. Administration but also prompts us to say that Israel's policy toward the peace process has not changed. This makes us, the Arabs, more careful and vigilant than before. Therefore, we reassert the need to continue to adhere to the basic, constant principles of the peace process, which originally rests on UN resolutions and the land-for-peace principle.

AL-BA'TH concludes: In all events, we will not prejudge matters, and we will wait for the convening of the 11th round, what it could achieve, and the role of the U.S. sponsor in this round, which is supposed to be different from the previous rounds.

Afghanistan

Foreign Minister Returns From Talks in Tajikistan

BK1408094493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0931 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Report by Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, Aug 14 (AFP)—A total of 39 Afghans are being held prisoner in Tajikistan, Afghan Foreign Minister Hedayat Amin Arsala said Saturday on his return to Kabul from talks in the Tajik capital Dushanbe.

"The Tajik Government has already agreed to the release of five, and are considering the fate of the rest," Arsala told AFP on arrival at Kabul International airport.

Arsala returned to Kabul after a four-day round table conference in Dushanbe with delegations from the Rusian Federation, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan to discuss fighting on the Tajik-Afghan border.

"We discussed broad issues and political dialogue between the various groups in Tajikistan," Arsala said when questioned about the results achieved in Dushanbe.

"We also discussed the issue of refugees, and economic and trade cooperation," he said.

Arsala, who declined to elaborate on the issue of dialogue between the Russian-supported neo-communist Tajik regime and opposing Islamic rebels, said only: "The Tajik government agreed to have broad dialogue."

Islamic rebels, who have been battling the Dushanbe regime since late last year, are charged by Moscow of receiving military support from Afghan mujahedeen based near the Amu Darya (Oxus) River which forms the natural Afghan-Tajik frontier.

"The Tajiks claim a number of Afghan groups support the opponent forces," Asala stated.

Although no one in Kabul denies Afghan support for the Tajik rebels at the local level, unconnected with Kabul, government spokesman here are careful to refute allegations of "official" Afghan state support for the Tajiks.

Referring to the recent bombardments of Afghan border villages as punishment for Afghan support to the Tajik rebels, Arsala said the Tajik government promised an end to the 'violations', although it was not clear if the same promise has been extracted from Russian border guards.

However the Tajiks have said they would continue with "defensive measures" on their side of the border.

Mujahedeen border guards in the Chah-i-ab district of northeastern Takhar province have complained that Russian border violations began more than four months ago with the abduction of 11 Afghans engaged in panning for gold in the Amu Darya River.

They said eight of the 11 had been sent back but three were still missing.

In answer to Russian claims that five of their men had recently been kidnapped by Tajik rebels and ferried to Afghanistan for safe-keeping, Arsala replied: "We are still trying to negotiate that issue."

President, Hekmatyar Hold 'Positive' Talks

LD1308171993 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] To implement the Jalalabad agreements, esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA], met and held talks with esteemed Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar, prime minister of ISA, and a number of esteemed jehadi leaders and cabinet members, in Qala-ye Haydar Khan in Paghman District today. According to a report by the Bakhtar Information Agency [BIA], the following were present at the meeting: esteemed Professor Abdurra'uf Rasul Sayyaf, leader of the Ettehad-e Eslami-e [Islamic Union]; esteemed Mawlawi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, leader of the Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami [Islamic Revolution Movement]; esteemed Mowlawi Arsalan [as heard] Rahmani, deputy prime minister and minister of guidance and endowment; esteemed Qazi Mohammad Amin Waqqad, minister of communication; esteemed Seyyed 'Omar Monib, minister of higher and vocational education; esteemed Engineer Feyz Mohammad, minister of construction; esteemed Seyyed Nurollah 'Emad, minister of agriculture; esteemed Mowlawi Sami'ollah and esteemed Engineer 'Obaydollah Sirat, minister counsellors in the president's office; and esteemed Fahim, general president of national security.

At the meeting esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani spoke about the current situation of the country. He emphasized the need to create an atmosphere of understanding to make it possible to implement previous agreements among esteemed jehadi leaders and to ensure complete peace and security in the country. Current problems were also discussed in detail, and fruitful and constructive talks were held.

A related source told BIA that the results of today's meeting between esteemed Professor Rabbani, esteemed Engineer Hekmatyar, and other leaders and members of the cabinet, were positive and reassuring.

Bangladesh

Prime Minister Reshuffles Cabinet Portfolios

BK1408160293 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has reallocated portfolios of several ministers and state ministers in her cabinet. She also entrusted the charge of the newly created Ministry of Science and Technology.

M. Keramat Ali has been given the charge of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, while Tariqul Islam got the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications.

State Minister Professor M.A. Mannan has been entrusted the charge of new Science and Technology Ministry, while State Minister Fazlur Rahman was given the Social Welfare and State Minister Begum Sarwari Rahman the Woman Affairs Ministry.

Opposition Halts Protest Strike

BK1508092093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0909 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 15 (AFP)—Several hundred protestors Sunday defied a government ban on rallies during a six-hour general strike caled by the opposition which ended without any major incidents. But a heavy police and military contingent remained on the streets as two rival opposition groups called for rallies later in the day.

In the Purana Paltan district of Dhaka, several hundred activists of the main opposition Awami League (AL) defied the ban and paraded in the streets shouting slogans demanding that a trial be held in connection with the 1975 slaying of their leader, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, in a military coup.

Meanwhile, a small anti-Indian group, the "Resist Farrakka Movement" attempted a march in the downtown area until police chased them away. The movement was calling for a strike demanding that problems with neighbouring India on sharing water from common rivers be placed before the United Nations.

Thousands of people, many wearing black badges and carrying bouquets, thronged Rahman's house here to pay respects to the slain leader by placing wreaths in front of his portrait. One of their leaders was detained at the scene, police said.

The AL of Sheikh Hasina Wajed called for the six-hour stoppage to press their four-point demand, including declaring August 15 a national day of mourning to mark the death of Rahman, her father. Rahman and most of his family were killed in a bloody military coup in 1975.

The AL is demanding the Indemnity Ordinance be repealed to lift the protection of those accused in the killings from being prosecuted. Two of the coup leaders now head factions of the right-wing Freedom Party and two are diplomats. Rahman led Bangladesh to independence from Pakistan in 1971.

The government had banned demonstrations and the carrying of weapons or explosives in parts of Dhaka where AL-backed groups and rivals had called for rallies Sunday fearing the law and order situation. "Any attempt to to disrupt law and order at any place of the city will be dealt with severely," the authorities warned.

Security forces guarded the central Suhrawardy Park and the Dainik Bangla crossing in downtown Dhaka, where rivals also called rallies. "We have taken stringent measures," a police officer posted near the volatile Dhaka University campus told AFP.

Small groups of AL activists marched in several parts of the city, witnesses said. Shops and private offices, banks and schools were shut Sunday [15 August], a normal working day in Moslem Bangladesh, while newspapers reported many government officials stayed overnight in their offices. A large number of commuters walked to work and, with the exception of pedicabs, Dhaka streets were absent of transport. Two state-owned Bangladesh Road Transport Corportaion buses, with few passengers, moved through Dhaka streets under police escorts.

Residents in southeastern Chittagong port city and in southern Khulna district said by telephone the strike was also enforced there from 6:00 a.m. (0001 GMT).

Wajed called in a statement on Bangladeshis to convert the mourning into a "source of strength for establishing democracy as well as for carrying the fruits of indepndence to the toiling masses."

Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, whose family is reportedly celebrating her 49th brithday on Sunday, told the outgoing British High Commissioner Sir Colin Imray during a meeting Saturday that a section of the opposition by calling frequent strikes were hindering her efforts to establish democrary on a strong footing.

India

Prime Minister Delivers Independence Day Address

BK1508090193 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in Hindi 0203 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Address to the nation by Prime Minister Narasimha Rao on Independence Day from the ramparts of the Red Fort in Delhi on 15 August—live]

[Text] My dear countrymen: Greetings. Today, on this auspicious occasion of the 46th anniversary of our independence, I greet all of you and extend hearty felicitations. You are aware that a few days back we celebrated the golden jubilee anniversary of the Quit India Movement. This movement proved to be the most decisive movement in our freedom struggle, following which we won independence within five years. Today, fortunately, many of those freedom fighters are among us—those who made many great sacrifices to win independence for us are still alive. Many have passed away. I express my gratitude and that of the country to them. This country will never forget them, and will always keep them in mind. Their name will remain immortal and eternal in our history.

Today, on the 15th August, we are making a new beginning in the technical field. Up to now we have had two channels on our Doordarshan. Beginning today, we will be able to receive six television channels. This is not

a small achievement. At the most, one or two channels could have been added, but our scientists achieved a miracle, and they placed the indigenously designed and developed INSAT-2B satellite into orbit with very fine precision. It is working well. As a result, you will have six television channels starting today, and the number of channels will be gradually increased. This is a small example of our self-reliance in the field of science and technology. In this context, I also want to tell you about one more thing which relates to our national determination. To make satellites, we need an engine which is called a cryogenic engine. You must have read in the newspapers that some controversy arose over this engine issue. There were some differences. There is no difficulty in purchasing this engine, but there is difficulty in getting the related technology. There are many reasons for this and there is no need to go into details. Russia was supposed to supply us with this technology, but now there is a question mark about it. So what should we do? Should we give up our program? The question does not arise. We have decided to go forward, and our scientists have assured that they will develop this technology indigenously within two years, [applause] and after that we will not face any difficulties in designing, developing, and launching such satellites. Our scientists have asked for two years. In the meantime we can purchase these engines and I can assure you that our satellite program will continue without hindrance.

Today is a very memorable day. On this day we engage in reflection: looking at the past and pondering the future. Let us throw some light on the achievements of the people of India and this government in the past two years. I want to mention them briefly here. It is not that you are unaware of these achievements, but it will be good to note them once again. First, we have to concentrate on the economy because until the economic situation of the country is improved... [changes thought] keeping in view the conditions when this government was handed over to me and the economic situation we inherited, today you have to compare all that with how much progress we have made within the past two years and how miraculous this progress has been. This is a proof that our economic base was good, the structure was good, and the fundamentals were good; but as the economy had been allowed to go astray for a year or two, its health deteriorated. After we started taking care of it, it pulled itself together—suddenly and completely. This is a proof of the soundness of our economy, and that is why there is no need to feel dejected. The economic system was built by our leaders over the last 40 years; they laid the foundations and later strengthened and reinforced them. These foundations are still strong, and we should not spoil them. If we do not try to disturb them, this system will continue to perform strongly in the future as well.

You must have read about the inflation situation. The inflation rate has been brought down from 17 percent to five percent within one-and-a-half to two years. What does it mean? It only means that we do not have the situation that exists in some countries where prices in the afternoon are not same as the prices in the morning and prices in the evening are not same as the prices in the afternoon. We will never have such a situation. Prices have been controlled to the extent that any change in prices—increase or decrease—will always be under our control. They will never be out of control. You can look back over the last year and see that the prices have fluctuated over only a small range and have not increased at all. This symbolizes our economic system's resilience.

Today, you have to think about one more thing. How much money was deposited with us as foreign remittances. You will ask, what is the need for this? This is needed because we need foreign exchange. We have to buy our crude oil from outside; we have to import it. Many other things—fertilizers and machinery—are to be imported, and that is why we need foreign currency. Today, I am very happy to say that when we assumed power, we had foreign exchange reserves of 20 or 24 billion rupees—enough for one week only. Today we have foreign exchange reserves of 210 billion rupees, that is, $7 billion. Today, you do not find any problem in importing whatever you want from anywhere. So, I want to tell you that the foreign exchange situation is very good and satisfactory. Such a situation provides you an opportunity to move forward with self-confidence, and we are moving forward with the same self-confidence.

The rate of growth in the economy is also satisfactory. The trade balance—the balance between the volumes of our exports and imports; that is, the amount of goods we export to foreign countries and the amount we import from them—is a very important matter. If you import a lot from foreign countries, your foreign exchange reserves will be depleted and will ultimately be exhausted. However, if you export more, it will create a balance between the two. I am pleased to announce that, for the first time in the history of our independent India, we have achieved balance between exports and imports. Previously, we used to import more and export less, thereby creating a trade imbalance. Now, the amounts of our exports and imports have become equal, and, for the first time, we have achieved a very satisfactory and very good position under which we will not have to touch our foreign exchange reserves. The earnings from our exports will be used to purchase imports, thereby creating a balance between the two.

Whatever programs we have undertaken are mostly meant for the poor. These days, irresponsible comments are being made that all government programs are for the rich. This is completely wrong. I want to assure you and confide in you that all our programs are for the poor, whether it is the Jawahar Employment Program or any other scheme. Lately, we have made great progress in the rural development program. We have increased the allocations in the current fiscal year's budget for education, health, rural development and several other programs that will directly benefit the poor, the rural people. If one looks at these programs, one cannot say that they

are meant for the rich. Such programs are, of course, necessary for the purposes of industrialization. You do not have money. The country is poor, and the governments that preceded us made it even poorer. Today, we need to invest capital, otherwise our industries will not grow. If there is no industrial growth, there will be unemployment that will create hunger and starvation, and the country will ultimately disintegrate, break into pieces. Hence, the most important thing is to improve our economic situation, and for this we have to launch a massive industrialization program. We have, actually, already launched this program. I take great pleasure in announcing that our industrialization program had been running very smoothly during first eight months of last year, but the 6 December [incident in which Ayodhya mosque was torn down] and the Bombay blasts caused a slight setback. The program became sluggish to some extent. This is quite normal. Why would foreigners come to our country when they feel and see the law and order situation being disturbed and the peace being endangered? Even if they are our own countrymen, they will not come and invest their money here. This direct and clear impediment created a sudden sluggishness in our eight-month-old record. But, ultimately, our overall industrialization program is progressing very well. Lately, we have received proposals for about 10,000 industrial projects to be implemented in this country, and these proposals will be implemented.

In the process of industrialization, we have taken care that our workers will not be affected. We have created a separate fund of about 2,000 crore rupees to provide them assistance and to see that they do not remain unemployed. In case they require any training to obtain other jobs, they will get assistance from this fund. Their future and their employment will be fully taken care of.

Now, let me turn to agriculture. It is a matter of great pride for us that this year, the agricultural production was the highest in 40 years. I would like to congratulate the Indian farmers on your behalf and on behalf of the country and the government. They are our food producers. But today, besides being our food producers, they have also become our exporters. The export of agricultural produce, which is taking place for the first time, can be achieved on a massive scale, and we want to enhance such exports.

The new agricultural policy emphasizes increasing investment in the agricultural sector, especially in the field of irrigation. We want to make investments on a massive scale in this sector as there will be a proportionate increase in production. India is among those two or three countries in the entire world that can produce so much in the agricultural sector that the produce can be sold outside as well as being used to feed our people. Therefore, today, India is among those few countries who have achieved self-sufficiency and surplus production. We have to run the race. We have to give maximum benefits to our farmers. Today, we are ready to extend full help to the farmers, and we have been doing it in past years. You must have seen the support price we have provided to the farmers in past two years. This year, a support price of 55 rupees per quintal has been granted for wheat, 100 rupees for grams, and 310 to 350 rupees for paddy. Has any farmer heard about such an increase in the past? Once upon a time, they yearned for an increase of one or two rupees. Today, we have given such an increase because the expenditure of the farmers has also considerably increased. We are not giving any charity or granting any favors. The farmer is doing us a favor, and we are cooperating with him. Hence, we should not hesitate to give him the legitimate support price. When we import grains from outside, we will understand how much we are losing and how much we are saving through our farmers. Once again, I would like to congratulate them.

Another scheme in the agricultural sector is the crop insurance scheme. There have been drawbacks in the previous crop insurance scheme. It was decided to formulate a pilot scheme to be implemented starting next year. The pilot scheme will include all farmers and their crops and will include each district from each state and develop it. When this scheme is properly implemented in the country, the farmer need not worry about the damage to his crop from rains, hailstorms, and drought conditions.

In the case of fertilizers, you are aware that we have helped the farmers to a great extent. We have been giving an assistance of 1,000 rupees per ton. This year, we acted quickly in importing DAP [Diammonium Phosphate] etcetera, as we got the fertilizers from outside at very cheap prices. There was a difference of about 2,000 to 2,500 rupees per ton between the fertilizer produced at home and abroad. Therefore, we have imported fertilizers for all the crops this year. I would like to assure our farmers that in the case of fertilizers, they need not worry at all for the whole year. Whatever amount of fertilizers they need, they can get it in our country. Our factories, which had become unviable, have been given incentives and have been made viable. They have also started production now.

Now I would like to tell you a few words about the rural development. You have already heard about the allocation of 200 billion rupees for rural development. This entire allocation is being spent on such programs as will directly benefit inhabitants of rural India. Instead of percolating through the cities, the benefit will reach directly to the village people. You might recall that I had announced a program last year. We have several categories of artisans in our villages. They work with very obsolete, maybe 100- to 200-year-old tools whose productivity is very limited. I had stated that all Indian village artisans will be provided with new tools. We will launch a massive program to provide new tools to all of them. I am pleased to announce that we undertook this program in 62 districts last year and in 100 more districts in the current year; we will implement this program throughout the country by the end of the current five-year plan. The program has yielded very good results. More than 100,000 to 150,000 artisans have thus far benefited from this program. Their productivity has increased. Several people who had left their homes and migrated to

cities have also returned to their homes because they will not go to cities if they can earn the same amount of income in their own villages as they do in the cities. So, several people have returned to their villages. This is happening quietly and without any ostentation or show. We are providing a new tool kit to each artisan in the villages after talking to him about his requirements. The program is not only benefiting that individual artisan, but it benefits hundreds of thousands others as well. I would like to assure you that we will not leave this program half-finished. The program will continue during the entire period of the current plan. Each of our artisans will start working with good tools, which will prove to be a sort of revolution in the life of the rural artisans.

A massive program has been undertaken for the provision of drinking water. As you know, we have covered almost all the villages called revenue villages [preceding two words in English], but we now have to cover those small hamlets that comprise these villages. Drinking water is needed everywhere, even in the 10-house hamlets. It cannot be said that drinking water is not required at places where only a few people live. They all need water. Hence, a massive program is under way to cover all these villages under this rural development scheme.

Now I turn to the rural council system. You know that after a four-year struggle, during which several people created obstacles, we have passed the rural council bill in the parliament. The bill has also been passed in the assemblies of the states. Legislation has been enacted that will help erect a new structure of the rural council system throughout India, and through which the individual, the hidden strength of the people that has been suppressed thus far, will come to the surface. You will see the massive development programs they will undertake and what kind of hustle and bustle will be created in India through these new programs. I want to tell the women, my sisters, that 30 percent of the seats in these rurual councils will be reserved for them. They should be ready for this big responsibility that is falling upon their shoulders all at once. Previously, village councils comprised only one or two women members who also could not express their views openly nor work effectively. Now the women will have to play a very active role in these councils and shoulder the responsibilities assigned to them. There are seats reserved for the scheduled castes and for tribes in these councils, and they will remain intact as before, according to their proportions within the population. It does not need to be reiterated.

Last year, I said that a commission would be set up for the scavengers. I am glad to say that we have decided to make it a statutory commission and not an ordinary one. The bill is now in the parliament. It would have been passed within a day or two. However, for some reason it could not be passed, but it will be passed within a few days. The scavengers are a very backward class of people in society. They need consolation, and we will leave no stone unturned in this direction. Today, in our cities and small towns, there is a profession of collecting nightsoil. We would like to end that profession. This year, we have allocated a sum of 111 crore rupees for this program. We will provide more funds to end this profession. We will also make full efforts to provide these people with good alternate employment. A scheme has been introduced, and I hope that within a few years it will be completed. When the commission is formed, it will consider all their problems and find solutions. I would like to assure you that, whatever recommendations the commission makes regarding these brothers and sisters, they will have the full backing of the government.

You are aware of the formation of the National Backward Class Financial Development Corporation. It has performed well, and this year alone it has provided about 25,000 people with loans that helped them to earn their livelihood. In the same manner, thousands and millions of people will be further assisted. I would like to tell you that it is a very good institution.

Thereafter, I would like to tell my weaver brethren that for the first time, they will experience a change in their lives. Earlier, these people had nothing to do with all the schemes being carried out in the villages. Today, for the first time, we have made these weavers partners in all the existing rural projects such as the Integrated Rural Development Program, Jawarhar Employment Program, and the Indira Housing Program. They will get loans, work sheds, and working capital. We have earmarked about 5.25 crore rupees solely for the welfare of our weavers. Thanks to this new program, they will march toward a new life, and there is new hope for them. I would like to congratulate them and ask them to make full use of all these facilities.

Meanwhile, there were droughts in several localities and floods in some others. In some states, there was drought in one part and flooding in another. This year, there have been more natural calamities. To the extent possible, I myself visited these states and extended whatever timely assistance we could. I would like to tell you that the assistance extended has given relief to the people. However, as far as the floods are concerned, they come every year. We provide the people with some assistance, and they forget it until the next flood. It does not look good. We have to find out ways to end these floods once and for all. We will fully examine these measures. It is not a matter that can be accomplished quite soon. It may take several years. However, we have to make some beginning somewhere, and I promise you that we will begin this either from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, or from any other state. We have to begin and complete this task or this curse will strike our country forever.

Friends, now I would like to present some new plans to you. I would also like to make some new announcements. We have been thinking for some time in the past that we have to formulate and implement some new plans and submit them before the masses along with several others existing in the country.

The first plan relates to our sisters, especially the rural women. The condition of women in our society today is

not unknown to you. Their present condition needs to be improved. We understand, and many people say, that as long as the women do not achieve a kind of self-dependence —in the financial and economic matters— they will not be able to hold their heads high. This achievement of self-reliance will ensure a status for women in society. They should be accorded this status, not merely for work but also as a component of the society, which we call empowerment [preceding word in English]. We now have to undertake that empowerment program, and we have already thought about it. It is a very big thing, and its implementation may take a long time. However, the thing that needs to be done, is to have every adult woman open an account—either in the post office or bank or wherever possible—so that she can assume the status of an account holder in society. The freedom enjoyed by all to deposit and withdraw their own money—100 rupees, 50 rupees, 20 rupees, whatever is possible—from their own account must be provided to the women, too. Therefore, the government has launched a scheme that will cost 10 billion rupees. We have announced that any woman who will deposit 300 rupees in an account within one year by opening a savings account in the nearest post office in her respective area, will receive 75 rupees from the government. She will thereby receive 375 rupees after the completion of one year. All this money will go to her. We do not want to take away anything from her. We rather wish to give 75 rupees more to her. The government is definitely incurring a loss in this scheme, but I believe that the self-confidence that will be generated among women is invaluable and priceless, and nobody can put a price on this. Now that these women are going to shoulder major responsibilities, like those who will serve on the village councils, they will at least be able to understand what an account is. Today, as you can imagine, there are only a very few women in society who possess their own accounts. Millions of such accounts will be opened in the future, which will create a kind of revolution among our womenfolk. I wish to implement this program. Several voluntary agencies and women's associations are working in villages. I would like to appeal to them to help our women to smoothly run this program, which the government has decided to launch at a very high cost. If these organizations assist the women just for one year, the women, our sisters, will themselves understand what they need to do and will not return to them for help. We must execute this program, because it generates a new kind of psychological outlook. Therefore, we must implement it.

The second scheme relates to an employment program currently being implemented in two or three states— Maharashtra and Karnataka etcetera. The sole goal of our entire program is to generate employment, and we have to see how we can provide the maximum opportunities for employment. In rural areas, people can find jobs during the time of cultivation, but there are at least 90 to 100 days in a year—the lean season [preceding two words in English]—when there is no agricultural work and the people sit idle. We have decided to provide work for these 100 days. We may not provide guarantees to them to this effect, but we can assure the people that whosoever is ready to work will be given work, as is being done in Maharashtra and Karnataka today.

We would like to implement this employment program in the entire country. Now, you calculate the cost of implementing this program and the benefits to be reaped. Jawahar Employment Program and other programs are being implemented there. However, those who are unemployed should necessarily get employment. This is the real aspect of this program, and we would like to formulate it in this manner. This program will be launched for the first time in all those 1,700 blocks as announced by me last year, where poverty-stricken people from mountainous, desert, and tribal areas live. It is only in those blocks that unemployment persists, and many people do not get enough to eat. We would like to launch this program there and later extend it to other parts of the country.

The third program is for the sake of those youths who are educated to some extent but who can not get any job—for the educated unemployed. They might have passed a matriculation examination or failed it. They do not get employment, as they have either inadequate qualifications, or there is no job left for them. We want to provide employment to those youths in minor occupations, which are available aplenty and are already being pursued by people, such as opening some bicycle shop or other where some education is needed but not a university degree. If two people jointly take up a venture, we will grant them a 100,000-rupee loan wherein about 7,500 rupees will be the subsidy. We will provide them with necessary training and other facilities to operate that venture. We are of the opinion that within the next three years—the remaining three years of the five-year program—we will provide jobs to 1 million such youths. We have already made calculations about this and have also set apart funds for this. Today, I am making an announcement about all these three new programs. We have three more years of tenure and these programs can be fulfilled within that period.

Now, I will turn to the political background and perspective of our country. I have already told you, and you are also aware, that there is complete peace and tranquility in Punjab. If someone asks which is the most peaceful state in India today, the answer is Punjab, which had passed through an orgy of bloodbaths for 12 consecutive years. For the people and the government of Punjab, it is a matter of pride at having achieved peace. Our soldiers and police constables also deserve respect for confronting the terrorists and bringing them under control. On behalf of this country, I extend a hearty thanks to all of them. Punjab is the state that produces food for us. When there is some trouble there, it affects the entire country. However, people there deserve appreciation for their achievement of making Punjab the state that ranked first, and not second, in food production despite the continuing bloodshed. It is really a matter of great pride. I would like to congratulate them again.

Punjab is now to going to see an industrial revolution. All provisions for this purpose have been made. During the next two to three years, you will see an industrial revolution there along with the agricultural revolution—the Green Revolution. You should remember my words, because all preparations are being made for that.

The situation in Kashmir has still not improved. There has been a slight improvement, but we must still do a lot because of the inspiration, money, arms, and trained personnel sent from outside. The trained personnel come from Pakistan. They are not from Kashmir; they come from the outside. I can say with full confidence that the local people are against terrorism. However, when they see guns in front of their eyes, they do not speak, because everyone's life is dear to him. The people do not speak out, but if the terrorism ends today, they will rejoice and breathe a sigh of relief. There is no doubt about it. We have to do a lot more in the future about Kashmir. While, on one side, Pakistan spreads the propaganda about the violation of human rights in Kashmir, on the other side, only two days ago, terrorists from there stopped a bus halfway on its route and shot 16 to 17 people dead after ordering them to get off the bus. Did the victims of their bullets have no human rights? Do they have no right to live? Do only these terrorists enjoy this right? When terrorists are killed in clashes and encounters, why do Pakistanis express concern about it? Why do they spread this propaganda? Do only terrorists have all human rights, including the right to kill people but not to be killed by others? This is a strange argument, and that is why we are not ready to accept it. I want to congratulate those who have fought against terrorism and who have arrested several persons and have tried to control the situation in Kashmir to some extent. This operation will continue, no matter what Pakistan does. Kashmir is an integral part of India, [applause] and nobody can make it secede or separate from us, no matter how much power they use. What will happen? They will only be called ...[changes thought] Only recently, Pakistan itself had reached a point of being declared a terrorist state. Terrorists are there, but when they are themselves providing materials for their nation to be declared a terrorist state, then they have to think about whom they are harming. I will appeal to them and would also like to warn them that nobody, specifically Pakistan, is going to reap any benefit from these activities. India will remain intact, and Kashmir will remain as part of India, and we will serve the people of Kashmir in every way. We will solve their internal problems, and the problems are not going to be resolved through killings and carnage.

Lately, some small issues have cropped up regarding Assam, Bodoland, and recently the Jharkhand tribal state. There are, of course, some major problems of life and death for them, because when they continue to wage a movement for some time without achieving any results, the people feel bad and outraged, and they lose self-control. I would like to tell one and all that we are engaged in resolving these problems. Assam and Bodoland issues have been resolved and the Jharkhand problem will also be sorted out in a short period of time. We, therefore, have no cause for any concern. I would like to tell them that there is no need to get enraged and lose self-control.

Now, I will turn to the issue of Ayodhya. I was debating whether to say something on this or not. But, it is essential to speak out on this. The devastation in Ayodhya has tarnished the image of India. Today, India's image appears to be distorted outside. We look like saboteurs. We have been peace- loving people for over 5,000 years. The entire world has been wondering how this brutality springs up in India all of a sudden. We have not gained any honor, but have only earned indignity. People have started doubting our culture and peace-loving nature. I would like to say that the despicable act which was committed there is totally reprehensible. But, the irony is that it is being boasted about outside the country. I would like to tell you that when someone goes outside the country and says that the devastation caused was of a great magnitude, there will be more insult to us as well as to our country. It was not something good, and it remains a blemish even today. Within a short time, you will get clear facts about the way the destruction was committed, the persons who committed it, and the identities of those behind them. There is no need to wait for it.

Today, I would like to tell you that only one thing is working behind all these acts—the craving to misuse religion for political gains. Politics is a good thing. Religion is also good. Without religion, man does not find any clear path in life, and he becomes disillusioned. Religion, whatever it may be, helps man to lead his life on a clear and straight path. Politics shows the way to social and political organization of state. Both are perfect in their own places. But, when they are mixed up, and when religion is used for political gains, religion does not remain a religion. It becomes communalism. We all—government, people, and even every child of this country—have to confront communalism together. [Applause] Whatever sacrifice we make toward this is not enough because, if communalism holds sway here, as we have witnessed for a few years, the country will have no future. The country will be torn asunder.

When there is a belief that one religion is superior to another, there will not be any unity and integrity in this country, and the country will be torn asunder. I would like to tell you that no religion preaches hatred and that we should look down upon others. Regardless of numbers—whether those of the minority or majority community—all are equal in our constitution and view. Even the smallest minorities have the same rights as those of the majority. Therefore, one should understand that this kind of discrimination will not stand up in this country. An individual or a small group of people or a political party can practice this discrimination. However, all this is against our Constitution. You should understand that one who violates the Constitution cannot do it forever. One may practice it for one or two days or in one or two

elections. When people start understanding that a politician is practicing this, they will teach him a good lesson. I would like to tell you that we should give up all this. We should keep religion and politics separate. We will follow them both. If you follow your own religion, nobody has any objection. Nobody has any objection if you work for your respective parties, present your programs before the people, and win votes and rule the country. However, nobody has the right to campaign in the name of Hinduism, Islam, or Christianity and to get votes after creating a sort of temporary frenzy among the people and then to remain silent. This is not possible, and this should not happen. I appeal to you people belonging to all sections to refrain from this.

Now, we have this thing called secularism, which is our lifeline. If secularism perishes here, we will stop breathing, the nation will stop breathing. On the government's part, we are engaged in this matter. A bill has been introduced in Parliament and some legislation has been proposed, to the effect that whoever uses religion in politics will be considered to be violating the law. This violation of law should not happen; there is punishment or [word indistinct] prescribed for it. But a mere framing of a law will not work. This should be spread among the masses; everybody's mind and heart should be filled with this feeling. I want to urge you to supplement our efforts. If we supplement each other's efforts, secularism will succeed here. If we make efforts and you do not respond, or if you make efforts and we do not respond, it will not succeed. We should jointly make efforts to make secularism succeed.

I was talking about destruction. What should be the answer to the destruction? An act of destruction should not be countered with more destruction. Somebody destroys something, so something else should be destroyed in response. This will not rectify the situation. The only correct answer to the destruction is construction. Whatever has been destroyed should be reconstructed. Innumerable cities were destroyed in the world during the Second World War. Hundreds of cities perished. Half of London was destroyed in the fire. But nobody surrendered. We also want the same. Each building was reconstructed after the World War. Each city was redeveloped. The gutted half of London was rebuilt—it was built even better than before. Today, we want the same. We will not kneel down in front of the forces of destruction, especially in the case of the demolition at Ayodhya. We will not accept this defeat, and we will respond to destruction with reconstruction. I am assuring you of this. I am calling upon you to work together with us for this so that the Ayodhya chapter of history, which was very short-lived but which created doubt among the people, is obliterated. There is a need to end this doubt, and only then will we be able to practice a successful secularism.

You are aware that India has been very active in the field of foreign relations for the past two years. We are convening a meeting of the G-15, which is a forum of the developing countries, in our country. There are many programs today which are to be undertaken by the developing countries. India is playing a very constructive role in ending North-South rivalry. I am optimistic that India will succeed in its efforts. The efforts we are making to defend the development programs will succeed. New controversies, divisions, and debates are being created in the name of the environment. We have to solve all these matters, but not through confrontation. If you confront somebody on these issues, you will not succeed. You can solve these issues only through dialogue, argument, and mutual efforts to convince each other. That era has gone when there were two blocs confronting each other and indulging in heated exchanges and small proxy wars through their allies. Now the situation has changed. Now we have to move forward through the strength of our arguments and our determination. If your determination is strong, you will succeed.

You are aware of the state of our relations with our neighbors. We enjoy good relations with all of them except Pakistan. We could have very good relations with Pakistan as well. I have met their prime minister not once, but six times. But whenever I meet with them—personally we enjoy very good relations—and whenever policy matters are raised at these meetings, it is difficult to say who enjoys how much power there. That is why I would say that elections are going to take place there and a new leadership will emerge. Our talks could resume if the new leadership recognizes the current realities and has the strength to face them and the courage to implement these realities. There is no doubt that we are willing to hold such a dialogue.

But there is this question—a minor issue—and I want to tell them very clearly: Kashmir is a part of India. It has always been so and will continue to be. If this reality is recognized, there will be only friendship between the two countries; there will be only cooperation. I want to ensure that there will be nothing but cooperation between us. I also want to ask our neighbor Pakistan to forget about efforts to acquire Kashmir's secession from India. Many efforts have been made; propaganda is being carried out. You must have also spent a lot. If you forget all this, we can be friends forever on this basis, and our friendship can be an example for the world. I would like to tell them this.

Friends, I have taken too much of your time. Now, whatever we are doing today is for tens of millions of our poor brothers and sisters. You should understand the real situation regarding foreign investments. Questions are being raised as to why foreign money is pouring into the country and how it is being spent. All this talk is aimed at disrupting and hindering our programs. Whatever the source of investment, and whoever sets up industries, nobody is going to take back all that is being invested here. Roads and railway tracks will remain here. I said earlier that whatever infrastructure is built will remain here and belong to us. It is up to the investor as to how long he wants to stay here; he may want to go back. Well, at the most we will compensate them. But we do not want to send them back. They can come here. They can stay and work with us, and in partnership with

us help in India's progress as they are doing for the development of other countries. They were welcomed here, and different sections of society will benefit from them. We will get this benefit and we will show it to you. I am not satisfied with investments of 300 billion rupees. I would have been happy if it were 500 billion rupees. A trillion rupees would have been better. But we do not have this amount of money. If we cannot attract such an amount, there is no use dreaming about it. Whatever we can do about it, we will.

Many Indian civilizations have influence overseas. India has been the birthplace of many civilizations. Today, we have to overcome assaults on our culture, civilization, and peace-loving nature and the doubts in our minds. We have to save India. There is a great need for this. Otherwise, once our country's image and reputation are hurt, they will be very, very difficult to repair.

Another thing I want to mention here is that if we divert our attention from the economic program—even for a minute or a month—we will suffer immense loss. You should assess this loss.

There were bomb blasts in Bombay. Our Finance Ministry says that within a month or two, we suffered a loss of at least 100 billion rupees. A loss of 100 billion rupees was caused in two months just because some mad person exploded bombs somewhere. What does it mean? Can we totally destroy this vast country by exploding two to four bombs; can we shatter its economic system? How is it possible? Let us not allow it to happen, no matter how many bombs explode. We do not wish to see bomb explosions, and wherever such incidents take place, they will be dealt with. Punishment will be meted out to those found involved in them. I assure you. And even if, supposedly, such incidents take place somewhere, we should not divert our attention to the other side, because we want to move forward in only one direction—toward economic progress. We have lagged far behind. Even nations smaller than us have gone far ahead of us. If we continue to remain entangled in clashes between the Hindus and Muslims, between one caste and another, and in political and religious wranglings for two to three years more in the current manner, and if we do not pay attention toward our development, our rate of growth, then our future will be very bleak. You must realize this. We are receiving this admonition from all over the world. Our own sheer wisdom is giving us this warning. It is up to us whether we hear that warning or not. We must hear it. There is a story in a Hindu scripture which goes: There is a dancer who is dancing to the tune of music and song. She is dancing with a pitcher on her head. She will continue to dance, but not let the pitcher fall on the ground. Her whole body will dance, but the pitcher on her head [indistinct words in Sanskrit]. Such should be our attitude. No matter how many difficulties we face, what other works we begin to do, the pitcher of development on our head—the pitcher of progress, of moving forward, and of our economic program—must not go off the track, it must not fall on the ground. We have to take full precaution in this regard. This is what I wish to tell you. If we move forward with such precaution, then there will be no cause of any anxiety for this country.

The country has already occupied its place—whatever suitable place is there for it according to its status—in the community of nations and will constantly strive to advance the level of its position, will try to further improve it. We have numerous opportunities before us. In future, the United Nations Security Council will be expanded. We have to constantly play a much greater role in the UN activities. We have always been playing our role there. Wherever any issue of conflict arises, all look toward India, because we are not among the ones who want to escalate conflicts. We are the ones who lessen them. We are among the people who establish peace. We are ourselves peace-loving and that is why we enjoy a status, a place at the United Nations. We have to maintain that position there.

We also have to maintain our status within the country. If one is not strong from within, then one cannot be strong outside. I would, therefore, like to submit to you very humbly that it does not make any difference if we belong to the minority or majority community, whether we follow one religion or another, or whether some of us are atheists. It is a matter of one's own faith.

About the minorities, I have already stated that there will be no discrimination against them here. They are minorities only because of their numbers, but as citizens of India, they will not be considered even a bit less than others. All will enjoy equal rights, I want to assure you about that. Another thing is that these minorities are now in the grip of fear of threats to their life and property. The recent communal riots have heightened that fear. In this context, I would like to tell you that we have established a Rapid Action Force from among our police squads responsible for maintaining law and order. Five battalions have already been formed and five more are undergoing training. We wish to increase their number, so that this composite force will rush to control the riots wherever they take place, and will succeed in doing that. They will, perhaps, receive greater training than their general police counterparts. They have been and will be trained specifically for this purpose. I would like to tell you with full confidence that this program of raising a Rapid Action Force will not be left half-finished. We have to carry it forward. It was considered during the time of Rajiv Gandhi and also during the time of Indira Gandhi, but I now feel proud of implementing those programs and in carrying them forward and will continue to improve it relentlessly [preceding word in English].

Recently, we set up the National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation with authorized capital of 5 billion rupees. Only a couple of days ago, a decision was made to this effect. Earlier, there was concern that establishment of that corporation might violate the spirit of the law; but we have now reached a conclusion that this is totally appropriate and there is no indiscretion in it. We have to get it done, and we will have it done. On the one hand, we will do whatever we can to protect the life and property [of the minorities], and on the other hand, we will also do what needs to be done for their

economic progress. The Minorities Commission has already been given statutory powers. It is a statutory commission now, and we will accept its recommendations as far as is practicable. I want to tell you that the arrangements for education under the Maulana Azad Education Foundation will be improved further. We will provide more funds to them, we will help them, and we will enable that institution, that foundation, to render maximum possible services in the field of education. About the Waqf [Islamic Endowment] Act, I would like to tell you that new legislation is going to be enacted or several amendments are going to be made into the old legislation, under which the confusion about the Qaqf properties can be eliminated. There are several other similar programs, like the 15-point program etc, which I have no time to describe in detail. But, I would like to tell you that everyone—whether belonging to majority or minority communities—has to live together. Nobody needs to go away from here. All will continue to stay here and they must stay here. This I want to convey to you.

We, therefore, have to scrupulously maintain and carry forward the message that we are sending out today, the position which we enjoy throughout the entire world, and our good deeds—whatever they may be—within the country. May God bless you with the strength to shoulder new responsibilities and to move forward in a new direction, so that we may be able to move forward reinforced with this power! This is what I have to say to you.

Now, following the path shown to us by our leaders—right from Mahatma Gandhi to Rajiv Gandhi—we have to tell the world that we will not deviate from our path, we will move on the path of truth, and we will fulfill the obligations that will fall on us for our own welfare, for our country's welfare, and for the well-being of all people. Today, on this 15th of August, we have again gathered here with the same resolve and determination. The people all over the country are listening to me. Extending my greetings and thanks to you once again, I wish you happiness and prosperity in the coming year. With these good wishes, I seek your leave. Thank you.

Officials Comment on Rao Speech

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[By Anil Penna]

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 16 (AFP)—Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's combative independence day call for a head-on fight against Hindu revivalists has drawn the battle lines for crucial state polls due in three months.

Rao virtually hit the campaign trail with Sunday's [15 August] speech, pledging to save secularism, delink religion and politics and rebuild the destroyed Babri mosque and warning Pakistan not to meddle in Kashmir, analysts said Monday.

The 72-year-old premier also gave away about 500 million dollars in concessions to his ruling Congress (I) party's traditional vote banks—women, the minorities and other disadvantaged sections.

Congress (I) spokesman Vithal Gadgil said Rao had outlined the party's agenda and "in a sense" spelled out its manifesto for elections expected in November in four states of the crucial "cow belt."

"He has reemphasised the party's commitment to secularism and tried to [word indistinct] a sense of alienation in the (Muslim) minority community," Gadgil told AFP. "He also announced concrete schemes on which action will follow."

Rao's main target was the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the largest opposition block in parliament, which led an emotive Hindu campaign that culminated in the December 6 destruction of the Babri mosque in Ayodhya.

New Delhi sacked BJP governments ruling the populous and politically crucial states of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh after the razing of the shrine sparked widespread Hindu-Muslim violence.

The polls there in November would be the Congress (I)'s biggest popularity test since it took office in mid-1991 and serve as a barometer of the electorate's mood.

It would also be a virtual referendum on the the BJP's campaign for a temple on the disputed site of the mosque, which Hindu fanatics say was built by Moghul rulers on the birthplace of their god Rama.

Rao's critics including Congress dissidents have accused him of being indecisive, lacking the will to battle the aggressive BJP and of alienating the 100-million-strong Muslim community from the ruling party.

His unusually combative address to the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort partly answered such criticism and refurbished his image.

"No political party has a right to divide the nation along religious lines to grab votes," he said, pledging to bring legislation disallowing politicians from making an appeal to voters from a religious plank.

"Secularism has been our lifebreath, without it we will die. I urge the hundreds of millions of Indians to unite to save it," said Rao, whose main success has been a sweeping economic reform drive.

The speech was greeted by THE TIMES OF INDIA on Monday as a "sound and sensible articulation of the republican goals set out in the constitution."

It said the address indicated "a confident, firm and clear-headed prime minister."

"All in all, Mr. Rao emerges with his authority enhanced... in the bargain, he has also projected himself

as a leader who is eager to wage the forthcoming electoral battle on the strength of past achievements and present policies."

Mutually hostile opposition parties also saw the speech as an electoral battlecry but had no words of praise.

"He clearly had eye on the November elections," said Devdas Apte, a spokesman for the BJP. "But he did not once mention corruption, which is a burning issue."

Corruption has been a hot political topic since stock broker Harshad Mehta on June 16 alleged he had paid off Rao in 1991 for political patronage. Mehta is the chief suspect in a 1.3 billion dollar bace swindle.

"Rao is taking a most untenable stand by refusing to recognise that corruption is an issue," said Sitaram Yechury, a politburo member of the powerful Communist Party of India-Marxist.

"The pre-election pitch to take on the fundamentalists is a show of bravado. He has woken up a little too late ... What remains to be seen is whether he can summon the political will for a fight.

Rao Sees 'Foreign Hand' in 'Subversive Activities'

BK1408161293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] The prime minister has said that there are clear indications of a foreign hand in the subversive activities in the Kashmir Valley and other places in the country. Addressing the men and officers of the defense services over All India Radio on the eve [14 August] of the 47th Independence Day, he said these activities are a plot to weaken the country. Mr. Narasimha Rao expressed concern at the continuing infiltration of trained armed terrorists into the country. He stressed the need for exercising vigilance on the borders and alertness within the country to deal with these elements.

The prime minister complimented the armed forces on the excellent job done by them in defending the country and maintaining internal security by curbing subversive activities. Mr. Rao described the armed forces as a symbol of unity in diversity. He also appreciated their role in protecting the life and property of the people during the devastating floods and natural calamities.

Referring to their work in Cambodia and Somalia, Mr. Narasimha Rao said our armed forces are no longer just representatives of the region; increasingly, they have become our ambassadors to the rest of the world. He expressed confidence that scrupulous observance of human rights by our troops wherever they serve would be an example to the world. Mr. Narasimha Rao appreciated the work of the Coast Guards, the Territorial Army, the Border Security Force, and the National Cadet Corps.

Independence Day Observed as 'Black Day' in Kashmir

BK1508114493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1111 GMT 15 Aug 93

[By Izhar Wani]

[Text] Srinagar, India, Aug 15 (AFP)—Muslim militants attacked security forces as Kashmiris boycotted celebrations of India's independence day Sunday [15 August] and unfurled black banners from rooftops to protest Indian rule.

One constable of the Central Reserve Police Force was killed and 16 were wounded when militants armed with automatic weapons sprayed gunfire on troopers patrolling the airport road in Srinagar, police said.

Gunmen targeted security pickets at several other places in Srinagar, summer capital of Kashmir and urban hub of the four-year-old Muslim insurgency. They also traded fire with troopers in the northern Kashmir town of Sopore.

Prominent Muslim militant groups meanwhile condemned the shooting of 16 Hindu bus passengers on Saturday [14 August] by masked gunmen near the southern Kashmir town of Kishtwar.

No group has claimed responsibility for the massacre, the bloodiest single attack on Kashmiri Hindus since Muslim militants launched a violent campaign in 1989 for an end to Indian rule over the Muslim-majority state.

Police said that the attack was carried out by Muslim militants who ordered the Muslim passengers on the bus to get off and then drove the vehicle to a deserted area, where they sprayed gunfire on the 16 Hindu passengers.

The lone survivor died in hospital Sunday as a house-to-house hunt continued for the killers, the police said. Some 75 suspected militants were held in the region around Jammu, Kashmir's Hindu-majority winter capital.

The streets of Srinagar were mostly deserted Sunday as the heavy security presence and a general strike called by militant groups kept residents behind closed doors, witnesses said.

Black banners were flown from rooftops in response to a militant call that India's independence day be observed as a "black day" and Indian flags were burned during scattered protests in downtown Srinagar, witnesses said.

The boycott of independence day ceremonies was in sharp contrast to defiant celebrations of Pakistan's national day on Saturday, when residents flew Pakistani flags and burst firecrackers.

Kashmir governor K.V. Krishna Rao, a former Indian army chief, was the chief guest at the official independence day parade held under tight security at Srinagar's Bakshi Stadium.

An army helicopter hovered over the stadium and Indian troops and police were out in force to ensure that the ceremony commemorating India's 1947 independence from Britain went off without a hitch.

Troops lined the road from the governor's mansion to the stadium, a distance of about six kilometers (four miles), witnesses said.

In a speech to servicemen assembled in the stadium, Krishna Rao said that Kashmir was an integral part of India and would never be allowed to leave the union.

He praised the security forces for their success in battling the militancy and appealed to Kashmiri youths to shun violence and come to the negotiating table.

Krishna Rao's words echoed those of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, who declared in an independence day speech in the capital Sunday that India would never allow Kashmir to secede.

"Kashmir is an integral and inalienable part of India," the premier said, accusing Pakistan of fuelling the insurgency in the northern state, a charge Islamabad denies while admitting moral support for the militants.

More than 7,000 people have died in Kashmir since the militancy erupted four years ago, according to official figures.

Killing of 15 People Sparks Curfew in Jammu

BK1408125493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] The security forces have been put on alert throughout the Jammu region following the killing of 15 bus passengers by the militants at Sarthal near Kishtwar early today [14 August]. An indefinite curfew has been imposed in the Kishtwar and Bhadarwah districts as a precautionary measure. The Jammu and Kashmir governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, has expressed grief over the killing of innocent passengers. He conveyed his sympathies to the bereaved families and directed the security forces to bring the culprits to book. Meanwhile, the state government has sanctioned ex-gratia relief of 1 lakh rupees each to the next of the kin of those killed.

Iran

Reportage, Commentary on New Presidential Cabinet

Public 'Disgusted' With Government

NC1508120993 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Station commentary: "The Beginning of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Second Presidential Term"]

[Text] Last week, Hashemi-Rafsanjani took the oath of office at the beginning of his second term as president and a few days ago, he presented a list of ministers for his new cabinet to the Majles.

Earlier, rumors had been rife that Hashemi-Rafsanjani was to implement major changes in his cabinet, but as it happens, these changes were not so major, and were confined to shuffling some non- key pawns. Next week, the Majles is scheduled to embark on a 15- hour consultation and to give a vote of confidence to Hashemi-Rafsanjani's cabinet.

We may recall that in the display staged by Hashemi-Rafsanjani in June, he received 63 percent of the votes and became president for another term. Four years ago, Hashemi-Rafsanjani had made lavish promises and had presented miscellaneous programs and had taken over the executive power in the country. There were some at that time who imagined that Hashemi-Rafsanjani would pave the way for massive economic, social, and political changes in the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, in retrospect we can see that in the past four years there has been a world of difference between Hashemi-Rafsanjani's claims and slogans and the actual performance of his government. In any case, Hashemi- Rafsanjani has lavished glowing praise on the government's performance in the past four years and is once again promising that in the next four years, he will resolve the various problems of the country.

In the recent farce of presidential elections, the people proved that they were disgusted with Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his regime.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani does not even mention the tangled condition of his economy, or that the level of investment in Iran is very low. He avoids reference to inflation, spiraling prices, and rampant unemployment and even the disarray in the fields of industry, health care, education and training. He evades any allusion to the suppression of the most fundamental freedoms and human rights in Iran and to the black dossier of the regime on human rights violations. He does not clarify why Iran is isolated internationally today, or why attacks on individual and collective social and national rights of the tyrannized Iranian people continue. He does not elaborate on why exiled Iranians, or those resident abroad, are not prepared to return and why the brain drain and the emigration of specialists continues.

Yes. In the past four years, Hashemi-Rafsanjani has not been able to bring about any serious, fundamental, or positive change for the benefit of the people. The clerics are clinging to power with fangs and talons and their incompetence and ignorance has pushed Iran into one of the darkest periods of its history. The people cannot see any bright horizons and are living in difficult conditions. A government that considers itself a symbol of religion, ethics, and morality, is wallowing in corruption.

The ruling clerics and their clique continue to pillage the country's wealth and resources at whim. This is while

millions of Iranians have to scrounge for a scrap of bread. The clerical regime continues its antipopular policy. Instead of attending to the country's problems, they are involved in directing Hezbollahi groups and various Islamic groups in the world and in exporting terrorism. Lawbreaking has become one of the distinctive traits of this regime.

Today in Iran, no one enjoys a safe life. The youth are facing all kinds of restrictions; women are deprived of basic human rights. Regardless of what occurs, the regime's police apparatus unleashes greater repression and force against the people. The answer of the regime to the demands of the Iranian people and the toilers and workers is to arrest them and incarcerate them.

Democratic freedoms such as freedom of speech; of the press; political, literary, cultural freedoms, forming of syndicates and (?unions) are all banned. Hashemi-Rafsanjani is beginning his second term as president when the problems facing the country continue in full strength. The political structure of the clerical regime and the reactionary nature of this regime are the main impediments to the resolving of the multifarious problems facing our country.

In other words, we cannot have any expectations of any positive changes in Iran. If Hashemi-Rafsanjani and other senior and junior officials of the regime are forced to carry out any half-baked reforms, these will only be based on the regime's interests. The experience of the past four years indicates that the Islamic Republic of Iran does not have the ability to institute any fundamental reforms. The ideological nature of this regime is in conflict with all kinds of individual, collective, cultural, social, and artistic freedom.

Yes. Hashemi-Rafsanjani is embarking on his second presidential term when his true (?nature) has been revealed and no one, at home or abroad, has any faith in Hashemi-Rafsanjani's perestroyka [preceding word in Russian]. Now the people have realized that our country can only be delivered from this multifaceted crisis when the black despotism of the clerics is eliminated and true freedom, democracy, and the rule of law are established. This regime is a crisis in itself and as long as it remains in power, the country will continue to encounter deeper and more intense crises. Under such circumstances, how can Hashemi-Rafsanjani claim that in the next four years he will solve the country's problems?

In contrast to the claims of the regime's propaganda apparatus, the beginning of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's second term of office is not only not going to be considered a new phase in the life of the Iranian people, it will mark the beginning of a new chapter of economic chaos, the intensification of suppression and strangulation, and of greater economic pressure.

Majles Opens Debate on Cabinet

LD1508080793 Tehran IRNA in English 0709 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 15, IRNA—The Majles started deliberations on President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's new cabinet Sunday morning. President Rafsanjani introduced his new 23-member cabinet to the Majles last Sunday, August 18.

The president attended Majles open session this morning and appreciated services of six ministers who served in previous cabinet and are substituted in the new one. He presented brief biographies of the new cabinet. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the new ministers have been chosen after comprehensive studies and called on deputies not to vote for a minister if they really did not approve him.

16 ministers have been reinstated in their posts in the new cabinet while six ministers are new and former Defence Minister Akbar Torkan will serve as transportation minister.

The Majles will hold a 15-hour discussion over the issue at open sessions both on Sunday and also Monday morning. The final decision will be announced Monday afternoon. The vote of confidence by 270 Majles deputies will enable President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to start his second term of office with new faces in the capacity of interior, health, defence, higher education, transportation and housing and urban development ministries.

Political observers believe that the 60-year-old president who received backing of 10 million voters out of 16.5 million in presidential elections, will deal with domestic and Islamic issues more actively. Hashemi-Rafsanjani is now getting ready for his second five-year development plan to be started early next year when his first plan will come to an end.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Majles

LD1508130593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] Majles deputies today began their debate on the issue of a vote of confidence for Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's new cabinet.

[Unidentified correspondent] The debate on the members of the future government, which has for some time been attracting the attention and interest of various circles and the press in our country, began today in an open session of the Majles with a speech by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] I hope the debate on the cabinet will be recorded in our country's political history and the history of our parliament as an example of a good, Islamic, and national debate conducted in a serious and caring fashion. This will certainly be the case if the content of the remarks made remain within the

boundary of the agenda of selecting ministers, and if these remarks adhere to Islamic and revolutionary norms. [end recording]

[Correspondent] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the achievements of the persons nominated and the consultations carried out with regard to them. He said: The issue which is on the Majles' agenda today is the outcome of examinations and consultations, and especially of the opinion of Majles deputies.

The president also referred to consultations with the eminent leader [Khamene'i] about the persons nominated. He added: Without question, if I felt his eminence was not pleased with any of the choices, I would not have nominated them. Mr. Hashemi- Rafsanjani then declared: We will work with all the ministers in a spirit of complete trust and hope in a better future, and with total frankness during the second term.

The president denied rumors that he has no views on some of the nominated people and that he is indifferent about them. He stated: I have a heartfelt desire for all the selected ministers to begin work with a good vote and with the strong support of the Majles; this would be good both for our system and as a crushing response to the propaganda trumpets of enemies.

Our country's president went on to enumerate the special characteristics and reasons for the choice of the new people intended to head the Ministries of Housing and Urban Development; Medicine, Health, and Medical Education; Education and Higher Education; Defense and Armed Forces Logistics; Commerce; and the Interior. Confirming the suitability and achievements of each one of them, he spoke of their nomination as worthy choices.

The president said: Since there was a possibility that the previous ministers heading these ministries would not obtain the necessary vote in the Majles, they were not nominated. Mr. Hashemi- Rafsani also expressed gratitude for the efforts and services of the ministers who are absent from the new cabinet. [end correspondent]

Our Majles correspondent's report states: After the president's speech, and in accordance with Article 143 of the Majles internal regulations, those deputies who were registered, starting yesterday, as wishing to speak about the members of the future cabinet, began to express their views about each member of the new cabinet. In the course of their remarks, these deputies in general confirmed the special qualities and suitability of the proposed cabinet members for the relevant ministerial posts. Declaring their intention to vote in favor of the future cabinet, these deputies expressed the hope that, by the proper implementation of plans, the future ministers would make endeavors to enable the government to achieve the goals that it has set out. Some deputies, furthermore, cited certain cases, and criticized the performance of some ministers.

This morning's open session of the Majles was concluded at around noon. The debate on the members of the future cabinet will continue during this afternoon's open session, which will commence at 1500.

Afternoon Discussions Detailed

LD1508193693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] The Majles which began debating President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's new cabinet, as from this morning, continued assessing the competence of the cabinet ministers this afternoon.

At this afternoon's open session, after 13 more deputies expressed their views on the programs of the proposed ministers, three of the ministers of the future cabinet replied to questions raised by a number of deputies.

Mr. Akbar Torkan, who has been put forward as the minister of roads and transport, said that the choice of permanent secretaries during his term of office at the Defense Ministry and Armed Forces Logistics, were in accordance with the rules and policies that were approved by the eminent leader. He emphasized that all the permanent secretaries will also be assessed at the Ministry of Roads and Transport and there will be no hesitation in changing them if the need arises.

According to our reporter, Mohammad Reza Hashemi-Golpaygani who has been proposed for the post of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, spoke next. He referred to the important duties and responsibilities of that ministry, and emphasized the need for the cooperation and coordination of other organs involved with issues concerning higher education in the country.

He explained: The rules governing the management of this sector have been laid down by the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution.

Mr. Hashemi-Golpaygani referred to the question of university quotas for former war combatants and self-sacrificers and noted that there was a need for commitment to the law, and for the careful implementation of the regulations.

Next, Agriculture Minister Isa Kalantari, who has been proposed once again for the Agriculture Ministry, commented on ways of supporting farmers and peasants. He said that with social justice in mind, the ministry will be adhering to the guarranteed prices that have been determined by the Majles, and will be seeking to provide social security for farmers and peasants.

According to our reporter, the open session of the Majles ended around 2000 hours tonight. The deputies will continue to debate the competence of the proposed ministers and vote at the end of that debate.

President Endorses Cabinet-Designates

LD1608112693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] After today's Majles session President Hashemi-Rafsanjani began a speech in defense of the proposed cabinet ministers. Our correspondent has dispatched a report on the remarks made by the Islamic president of Iran.

[Unidentified correspondent] At the end of today's open session of the Majles, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, expressing satisfaction with the entire debate by the Majles deputies on the new cabinet members, described the discussions as enlightening. Our country's president also stressed the importance of the deputies' liberty and freedom of opinion in giving a vote of confidence to the ministers, and called upon them to vote only for what they believe.

The president stressed the need for Majles support for the government and expressed the hope that the government will succeed, with the support of the Majles, in implementing its plans. Asserting that the country today needs courageous decisions, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani endorsed the achievements of the ministers. In a speech in defense of his proposed cabinet ministers the president answered questions and issues raised by the deputies.

Debate Continues 16 Aug

LD1608045093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] In today's open session, which began a few minutes ago, the Majles will continue the debate on the new cabinet of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. At today's Majles open session, deliberations by the deputies as well as the explanations by the president or any of his proposed ministers regarding the issues put forward by the deputies will continue, and then come to an end. My colleague Foruqi reports:

[Foruqi] According to Majles internal regulation articles, voting will be held separately at the end of today's open session, for each member of the cabinet and the votes of the deputies, for or against the ministerial candidates, will be put in the flower pot. It should be pointed out that the measure for the vote of confidence is the absolute majority of the vote holding deputies present in the open session.

In the morning and afternoon open sessions yesterday 30 deputies who had put down their names since Saturday to express their opinion regarding the cabinet members and their work program in turn spoke for or against the president's proposed ministers. The majority of the deputies approved the characteristics and competency of the individuals proposed for tenure of office and announced that they would vote for the new cabinet. Also, a number of deputies, while stating cases of work by some of the ministers, opposed their reappointment in the ministries. A group of deputies also questioned the members of the new cabinet and said their positive vote of confidence depended on the answers given by the proposed ministers.

In the open session yesterday afternoon the proposed ministers for the posts of the Ministries of Road and Transport, Culture and Higher Education, and Agriculture answered several questions put forward by the deputies.

Nominees Answer Deputies' Queries

LD1608111593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] In this morning's open session of the Majles, after 10 hours set aside for the expression of the viewpoints of the deputies about the members of the new cabinet who have been presented to the Majles and their programs, some of the ministers proposed by the president answered questions raised by the deputies, provided some explanations, and defended the record of their respective ministries.

According to a report by the Central News Unit, in this session of the Majles, which was also attended by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, candidates proposed for the Ministries of Oil, Economy and Financial Affairs, Construction Jihad, Post, Telegraph and Telephone, Interior, Education and Training, Health, Treatment and Medical Training, Mines and Metals, Industries, and Heavy Industries in their speeches stressed the need for adherence to regulations and said that their work in implementing their respective responsibilities has been in accordance with laws and regulations.

The proposed ministers also stressed the need for greater coordination between the Majles and the government and said that this would lead to greater progress in the affairs of society. They also asked for government support for their success in implementing their programs.

Voting Begins; Hizballah Chief Attends

LD1608113793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] Our correspondent reports that the Majles began voting on the proposed cabinet members few moments ago.

According to this report, Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah, the secretary general of the revolutionary movement of Lebanese Hizballah, and his accompanying delegation attended today's open Majles session. He familiarized himself closely with the way the Majles works. 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, the speaker of the Majles, thanked the members of the delegation for coming to the Majles and wished success to the Lebanese Hizballah forces on the front of struggle against the Zionists.

All Cabinet Nominations But 1 Accepted

LD1608114893 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] According to the latest reports we have received from the Majles, as the result of the votes cast by the deputies for the cabinet members proposed by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, all members of the cabinet with the exception of Mr. Mohsen Nurbakhsh, who had been proposed as minister of economic affairs and finance, have received a vote of confidence. A detailed report will be brought to your attention in our 1900 [1430 GMT] bulletin.

Voting Results Listed

LD1608125793 Tehran IRNA in English 1207 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 16, IRNA—The Majles Monday afternoon gave a vote of confidence to 22 ministers out of the 23-member cabinet proposed by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani last week.

Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Mohsen Nurbakhsh was the only minister who failed to receive the MPs [members of parliament] vote of confidence.

Deliberations over the new cabinet started Sunday, and continued this morning. 264 ballots were distributed among the MPs of whom 260 were present in early voting while minutes later another deputy joined those present, raising the total number to 261.

The voting result is as follows:

- Education: Mohammad 'Ali Najafi—147 in favor, 73 against and 36 abstentions
- Information: Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Fallahian—204 in favor, 24 against and 27 abstentions
- Finance and Economic Affairs: Mohsen Nurbakhsh—127 in favor, 75 against and 49 abstentions
- Foreign Affairs: 'Ali Akbar Velayati—207 in favor, 17 against and 33 abstentions
- Commerce: Yahya al-Eshaq—222 in favor, 12 against and 26 abstentions
- Health: Dr. 'Ali Reza Marandi—246 in favor, 4 against and 11 abstentions
- Post, Telegraph and Telephone: Mohammad Gharazi—192 in favor, 38 against and 21 abstentions
- Cooperatives: Gholam Reza Shafe'i—229 in favor, 9 against and 18 abstentions
- Construction Jihad: Gholam Reza Foruzesh—152 in favor, 70 against and 27 abstentions
- Justice: Hojjat ol-Eslam Esma'il Shushtari—233 in favor, 7 against and 18 abstentions
- Defence: Mohammad Foruzandeh—233 in favor, 5 against and 20 abstentions
- Roads and Transport: Akbar Torkan—176 in favor, 34 against and 48 abstentions
- Industries: Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh—194 in favor, 29 against and 29 abstentions
- Heavy Industries: Mohammad Hadi Nejad-Hoseynian—231 in favor, 12 against and 16 abstentions
- Culture and Higher education: Mohammad Reza Hashemi- Golpayegani—220 in favor, 12 against and 29 abstentions
- Culture and Islamic guidance: 'Ali Larijani—219 in favor, 12 against and 29 abstentions
- Labour and Social affairs: Hoseyn Kamali—223 in favor, 18 against and 17 abstentions
- Agriculture: 'Isa Kalantari—215 in favor, 23 against and 23 abstentions
- Interior: 'Ali Mohammad Besharati-Jahromi—225 in favor, 14 against and 21 abstentions
- Housing and Urban Development: 'Abbas Ahmad-Akhundi—193 in favor, 37 against and 22 abstentions
- Mines and Metals: Mohammad Hoseyn Mahlujhi—166 in favor, 54 against and 38 abstentions
- Oil: Gholam Reza Aqazadeh—134 in favor, 88 against and 25 abstentions
- Energy: Bijan Namdar-Zangeneh—202 in favor, 37 against and 18 abstentions.

Lebanese Hizballah Leader Meets With Officials

Yazdi Confers With Nasrallah

LD1408173593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] In a meeting today with Mr. Mohammad 'Ali Yazdi, the head of the judiciary, Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah, secretary general of Lebanon's Hezbollah, presented a report about the recent events in Lebanon, and the savage attacks by the Zionist regime against the resistant people of southern Lebanon, saying: The presence and activeness of Hezbollah in the face of the recent attack by the Zionist regime proved that it is possible to confront that regime despite its vast resources; this poses a threat to Israel's future.

Then, Mr. Yazdi praised the constant sacrifices made by and the vigilance of the forces of the Islamic resistance in the face of the occupiers, and especially in connection with the Zionists' recent attacks on Lebanon, and said: Despite the claims made by the Zionists and that regime's senior officials, God be praised, none of their pre-announced aims and goals were realized; this showed that in such clashes, despite the custom of the world hitherto, weapons are not the only determining factor, and that belief and strong faith are, in fact, much more effective than weapons. This was also clearly shown in the eight year-long imposed war against Iran

Mr. Yazdi expressed the hope, in conclusion, that, through the attention of the eminent leader [Khamene'i] and senior officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as through the affection that the Muslim people of Iran feel toward the people of Lebanon, the damage in Lebanon will be repaired soon.

Ruhani Hails Lebanese Resistance

LD1608124493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] In a meeting this morning with Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah, secretary general of the revolutionary Hizballah movement of Lebanon, Deputy Majles Speaker Hasan Ruhani praised the struggles and sacrifices of the Lebanese people and described their week-long resistance under the most intense Zionist bombardment as a sign of the defeat of the regime occupying Jerusalem.

Referring to the Zionist regime's policy for achieving economic, political, scientific, and technological domination of the region, Mr. Ruhani said the countries of the region have a very heavy responsibility of defending the rights of the people of the region. He proposed that alongside the front of self-sacrifice, resistance, and steadfastness there also be formed a great political and propaganda front to confront the new conspiracies of the regime occupying Jerusalem.

During this meeting, the secretary general of the revolutionary Hizballah movement of Lebanon submitted a report about the situation in Lebanon and the losses inflicted on that country by the recent attacks of the Zionist regime. He said the self-sacrifices of the Lebanese fighters in confronting the Zionist regime's attacks are due to the inspiration they have derived from the sublime teachings of Islam and the ideals of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni—May his soul be sanctified! They are also due to their obedience to the leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the guardian of the Muslim cause.

Nasrallah on Hizballah 'Steadfastness'

NC1408074793 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Hizballah's Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah, currently in Tehran with a delegation, has reviewed the situation in the south following the Israeli aggression.

Nasrallah said that by waging a war against Lebanon, Israel hoped to eradicate Hizballah and the Islamic Resistance, throw Lebanon into its former chaos, and weaken the Arabs and Muslims and bring them under its heel.

The Resistance fighters, however, did not lose heart. They continued to mount their jihad operations against the positions and assembly point of the enemy's army. In comparison, the enemy's forces were not able to advance one step, Nasrallah said.

His eminence added: For the first time in recent memory, our people were not the only ones to flee their homes. The inhabitants of the Israeli settlements in northern Israel faced the same fate. When their planes strafed our homes and towns, the Resistance shelled their settlements and forced about 150,000 to flee, a fact that put immense pressure on the Zionist enemy's government. Ezer Weizman, the president of the usurping entity, was almost killed when a rocket landed a few meters away from his car.

This time we were not the only ones to be killed, wounded, and forced to flee. The enemy shared that fate, Nasrallah said. He added that Israel failed to achieve its objectives because of the steadfastness of the Resistance, the popular support for the Resistance, and the solid backing of the Islamic Republic and Syria. The Israeli aggression, Nasrallah pointed out, increased support to the Resistance, created unprecedented national cohesion, strengthened the Resistance and Hizballah, and accentuated the hatred for Israel in the region.

The steadfastness of the Islamic Resistance fighters revived the confidence of the people of the region that the Israeli aggression can be confronted. Hizballah has once again vindicated the words of the departed imam [Khomeyni], may God bless his soul, that Hizballah's struggle is a source of inspiration for all Muslims.

Hizballah's secretary general added: We will continue to resist until the occupation ends. We will not give in or let up. Ours is a battle for the dignity of the entire nation. The faith, steadfastness, and resolve of our fighters and people give us the strength to stay put despite the sacrifices.

Nasrallah said: We look forward to the day when all the people of the region rise up to resist the Zionist enemy and reject all forms of capitulation.

Addressing the Muslim people of Iran, his eminence said: We look up to the dear Iranian people, with their long history of jihad and endless sacrifices. We hold out our hands to you, asking for your help and assistance. We are confident in the knowledge that you back the mujahidin, support the downtrodden, and relieve the needy.

With your help and that of all Muslims, we will overcome our calamity and a new dawn will shine upon our people, Nasrallah stated.

Hizballah's secretary general expressed his gratitude for the Guardian-of-the-Muslims' Cause Ayatollah Khamene'i in view of the latter's parental care of the Lebanese people and their mujahidin. Nasrallah also thanked all the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, most notably President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, for their unwavering support of the Lebanese people.

Aid Request 'Politely' Denied

PM1608110093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Aug 93 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Iran Turns Down Hizballah's Request for Additional Financial Assistance"]

[Text] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Iranian Government has politely and courteously turned

down Lebanese Hizballah's request for additional financial donations which it needs after the recent Israeli attacks on Lebanon.

Informed sources in Tehran yesterday said that Hizballah submitted its request through its secretary general, Hasan Nasrallah, who is currently visiting Tehran at the head of a large delegation comprising civilians, clergymen, and military men.

The size of the aid sought by Nasrallah is not clear yet. He said in a news conference, however, that his party needs "additional resources in order to begin the huge rebuilding efforts in southern Lebanon."

Iranian media services quoted Iranian officials, including Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, as saying that Iranian officials told Nasrallah to seek private and voluntary donations from the Iranian people.

The "supreme guide" 'Ali Khamene'i has opened a bank account for people's donations for Hizballah. Khamene'i himself donated the equivalent of $20,000 to this account.

Iranian officials say that the government's worsening financial problems are one of the reasons preventing it from granting Hizballah the increase it wants.

As is known, Iran, according to reports, spends $60 million a year on supporting Hizballah in Lebanon. It has recently allocated an additional aid totaling $2.3 million for this party.

The Iranian Government has special sensitivities toward the increasing criticisms that the nation's few financial resources are being squandered on "exporting the revolution." This is why the opening of a bank account for donations will enable revolutionary establishments to grant Hizballah the money, giving the impression that the money came from the Iranian people in the form of donations.

Contrary to what is customary, official media services' coverage of Nasrallah's present visit has been cool. They have focused on prospects for "investment" and "rebuilding" south Lebanon and its villages instead of "destroying Israel" or "bringing the big U.S. Satan to his knees"—slogans which used to be raised whenever Hizballah leaders visited Iran in the past.

Nevertheless, in a television interview Nasrallah warned Israel of the consequences of making new attempts to attack Hizballah and threatened to inflict on it a bigger defeat than the recent one.

New Cabinet, Lebanon Dominate Friday Sermons

Emami-Kashani on Majles 'Obligation'

LD1308145893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Friday prayers sermon by Ayotallah Emami-Kashani, provisional Friday prayers leader of Tehran and speaker of the Guardians Council, at Tehran University on 13 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Emami-Kashani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] As time is short I would like to briefly raise a number of issues in the second sermon, God willing, and render a summary of what I have prepared. Our most important domestic issue is the issue of the cabinet ministers, and that is where I begin my remarks.

In Islam the government is derived from the Imam of the Age [the 12th Shiite imam, Mahdi], may our souls be sacrificed to him. That means the government of the guiding imams, peace be upon them, is installed by Almighty God through the great prophet and during the Great Absence of the 12th imam a fully competent jurisconsult and a just exegetist who under the constitution is emulated by the majority of the people or one selected by a Guardian Council which itself is selected by the people. Therefore a person is placed at the head of the Islamic government during the Great Absence who represents the Lord of the Age, may our souls be sacrificed to him, on the one hand, and the people on the other. [passage omitted]

Therefore, when you look at the constitution you see the very same issue; for example, you can see that the president is elected by the people; but then that election and that decision is confirmed by the leader of the revolution. That is what that issue is about. On the one hand, the people are involved, and on the other, we need the confirmation of the leadership. The leader himself is under the protection of the Lord of the Age on the one hand and on the other people choose him as their leader. [passage omitted] We must pray to Almighty God to grant success to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his cabinet. We must also pray for them to be able to successfully resolve various problems facing the country.

The point which I would like to convey here is that when the president forms a cabinet, it must be presented to the Majles in order to receive vote of confidence. The Majles, in turn, has an obligation in this regard. No doubt the Majles is made up of deputies who are knowledgeable, expedient, aware, worthy, and valuable individuals from the various strata of the society, and all have their own highly valued areas of skill and specialization. As a whole we have a good Majles, which embraces careful and attentive deputies. However, I only wish to remind them of certain things.

The Islamic Majles is placed between the two poles of satisfying the Lord of the Age [the 12th imam] on the one hand, and the people on the other hand. Therefore, the Majles deputies should bear in mind that the Proof of God [the 12th Imam] is watchful over them. At the same time, they must have consideration for the people, and for the needy, the poor, and the underprivileged. Without having any consideration for ties and connections, friendship with this or the other person, and any other peripheral matters, the Majles must try to find out which individuals can serve better. They must select those who have greater strength in management, and in solving the people's problems, while at the same time possessing piety and religious faith. They must choose such individuals, as this Majles vote is a highly important one. [passage omitted]

God willing, the Majles will feel its responsibility, and it will, as I said, they are committed and will do so; and our ministers will appoint with the same sense, then place the next persons with the same sense, supervise with the same sense, ask questions with the same sense. This could be a government which is the path of the Lord of the Age, may our souls be sacrificed to him, and we will, God willing, move toward it. [passage omitted]

I would like to say to the Russians about the issue of Tajikistan. [passage omitted] Those Russians should learn a lesson from the occupation of Afghanistan. They should learn from Stalin's experience. [passage omitted] They should resolve political issues though diplomatic talks with the central government. [passage omitted]

Meshkini on 'Victory' in Lebanon

LD1308161793 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1415 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah 'Ali Meshkini, speaker of the Assembly of Experts, in Qom on 13 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] I am very optimistic about the fourth Majles, and I hope that, God willing, the Majles deputies will vote for ministers who are good in every sense of the word. They should choose ministers who will use the public purse as Imam 'Ali did. [passage omitted]

O ministers, deputy ministers, heads of organizations, governor generals, mayors: the private use of public funds is not allowed. [passage omitted]

I hope, God willing, that our ministers will be able and that the country will be more Islamic.

Finally, there is the important issue of Lebanon. You have heard that the Israeli aggression has left a large number of people wounded and dead, has destroyed a number of villages. A number of people have been killed and martyred. But, thank God, they have failed to achieve their aim. In fact it was to their disadvantage. A large Lebanese delegation has come and has been received by the eminent leader and the president. They clearly said that in the attack Israel wanted to kill a part of Hizballah and to publicly portray the rest as causes of corruption and oppression, so as to distance the people from Hizballah. But they have said, thank God, that the people are optimistic about Hizballah and support it, and that Israel now understands that Hizballah is all of Lebanon, and not only a particular group. This event has taken place and has been, thank God, very good. Hizballah also understands that the majority of the people of Lebanon support it. Thank God, this was a victory. We hope that we will not pass away before the destruction of Israel and this usurper government and this usurper country. [passage omitted]

Navy Commander: Delivery of 3d Submarine Imminent

NC1408170993 Paris AFP in English 1644 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug 14 (AFP)—Iran will "shortly" receive a third submarine bought from Russia, Iranian Navy Commander 'Ali Shamkhani said in comments published Saturday by Kayhan newspaper.

Admiral Shamkhani said that the third submarine "will be posted to a surveillance position in Iranian territorial waters" in the Persian Gulf, adding that the vessel would "shortly enter" Iranian waters.

He did not elaborate, but said the new submarine would boost the navy's defence capabilities.

Iran has already bought two of the Kilo-class, torpedo-equipped conventional submarines from Russia, provoking fears among Gulf Arab states and the United States that the Islamic Republic is rearming itself after the debilitating effects of the 1980-1988 war with Iraq.

The U.S. and its allies keep a permanent naval force in the Gulf, and Vice-Admiral Henry Childs, commander of the U.S. submarine fleet in the Atlantic, said on August 4 that Iran's newly-acquired submarines could be a threat to U.S. interests in the region.

Iran bought its first submarine from Russia in November 1992, and Shamkhani confirmed in the newspaper report that the second had been delivered to the southern port of Bandar-e 'Abbas on August 5.

President Chairs National Security Council Meeting

LD1408180393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] The Supreme National Security Council met this evening under the chairmanship of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. In the meeting, the latest regional reports, especially about the tragic situation of the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina due to the continuation of Serbian

crimes, and about the latest situation in Lebanon and Palestine were discussed and examined.

Later in the meeting, praise and gratitude was also expressed for the services and active participation of Mr. Nuri, the interior minister, and Mr. Torkan, the defense minister, during the past four years, in the course of discussions and meetings at the council's secretariat.

Rasht Revolutionary Court Prosecutor Commits Suicide

NC1608075593 Paris AFP in English 0730 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, August 16 (AFP)—A chief prosecutor in charge of a revolutionary court in northern Iran has committed suicide, leaving behind a letter denouncing other officials, SALAM newspaper reported Monday [16 August].

Mohsen Khodavardi shot himself in the chest with a pistol as he was visiting his father-in-law's house in the central city of Qazvin, the paper said.

He had been working for 10 years as a chief prosecutor in the northern city of Rasht, near the Caspian sea.

A lengthy suicide note exposed the "wrong-doings" of several officials from the judiciary and other organs and called on the authorities to reveal its contents, the paper said.

Khodavardi blamed nobody in particular for his suicide, but vowed he would confront those responsible "on doomsday."

Revolutionary courts were set up after the Islamic revolution of 1979 to try collaborators with the shah's regime, but were later used to review political and drug-related cases.

Baghdad Paper Cited on Raids Into Northern Iraq

NC1508114493 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 0630 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] The Iraqi newspaper AL-THAWRAH reacted to the Khomeyni regime's admitting that it has attacked northern Iraqi territory. In an article under the rubric "One Who Does Not Learn by Repetition," the newspaper comments: The Tehran regime openly admits that its forces carry out military operations in northern Iraq. Iran's confessions are not the only proof of this statement. The number of its soldiers killed and its POW's in the areas where Iran has committed military aggression in northern Iraq are concrete evidence of its actions.

New Mojahedin-e-Khalq Command Council Elected

JN1408093293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Aug (INA)—Mariam Rajavi, secretary general of the Iranian Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization and deputy commander in chief of the Iranian National Liberation Army, has stated that a new command council for the organization has been formed, including 12 women members and an equal number as reserve members.

At an extraordinary meeting attended by thousands of mojahedin during which the formation of the new council was announced, AL-QADISIYAH cites Mas'ud Rajavi, leader of the Iranian resistance, as saying that the election of this council shows that a democratic Iran will be established after the terrorist dictatorship of the mullahs that is working under the cover of religion is toppled. He stressed that the Iranian people will then elect their real representatives, irrespective of sex, race, or religion.

The meeting, which was held in one of the Mojahedin-e Khalq bases on 12 August and which lasted 12 hours, was attended by representatives of Mojahedin-e Khalq agencies and units in the country and organization officials from abroad.

U.S. 'Piracy' Against Chinese Ship in Gulf Alleged

LD1208210693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Tehran based daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, in its special news column this morning, carried an interesting article entitled "Piracy by Washington in the International Waters." Due to its significance we bring here a summary of the article:

Recent act of U.S. warships in checking the movement of a Chinese commercial vessel in the Persian Gulf and in an international waterway has taken world's political circles by surprise. The move has put the expanding U.S.-Chinese ties in ambiguity. Chinese Government officials Sunday denounced Washington for obstructing a Chinese ship under suspicion of carrying arms and chemical material to the Middle East.

According to U.S. intelligence reports, the Chinese cargo ship—which left the port of Dalian in northeastern China last July 15—is carrying two dangerous chemical substances to a destination in the Middle East.

In the opinion of political experts in the region, the U.S. Navy's unilateral move in stopping the Chinese commercial vessel while it was moving in international waters is viewed as piracy and a case can be filed with international forums for investigation. In several previous occasions too America has resorted to piracy and other illegal

measures on the baseless charges of arms and chemical material shipment. Legal experts say that such acts are repugnant to the fundamental principles on sovereignty of states and international laws and conventions.

Even though the Chinese government officials have confirmed that Yinhe, a cargo ship, is bound for the Middle East, they have not referred to the final destination of the ship. They stress that the Chinese Government has already banned the export of the two chemical substances which according to the Americans is being carried by Yinhe.

Despite this the U.S. Administration has ignored the Chinese explanation on the matter and in a unilateral move has prevented the Chinese vessel from reaching the planned ports.

The Chinese news agency has announced that the Yinhe has been forcibly taken to the high seas so that certain unusual measures such as pursuit and photography of the vessel may be carried out by the U.S. warships and choppers on international waters.

According to THE NEW YORK TIMES the Chinese government officials have suggested that the vessel be allowed to berth at an undisclosed port to be followed by an investigation by the Chinese officials and authorities of the country in whose port the vessel berths. The investigation will be made to find as to whether the consignment of the ship comprises chemical substances.

Meanwhile the Chinese news agency, quoting Qin Huasun, Chinese deputy foreign minister, as saying that a meeting where the ambassador has noted that the charges against China are a mere fabrication and America by resorting to its baseless information is seeking to create discord between China and regional states [as heard]. He added America's meritless acts are of international fame. Washington, through its recent act, has disgraced China and disrupted the unusual movement of Chinese vessels. On this account it has inflicted extensive economical losses on China which will eventually endanger the security of navigation for China. Despite all these cases which have been brought up in support or denial of the U.S. claims, THE NEW YORK TIMES poses this question as to why China has decided to disclose this issue.

In the opinion of the daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, response to this question continues to remain a puzzle.

U.S. 'Interception' Criticized

NC1408074293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Commentary by News Commentaries Group]

[Text] Following the interception of a PRC vessel by U.S. warships, new political differences have erupted between the PRC and the United States, to which no clear solution seems to be in sight.

U.S. warships surrounded a PRC vessel at the entry to the Persian Gulf and blocked its passage. In justifying its action, the United States claimed that the PRC vessel was carrying chemical materials that could be used in the manufacture of chemical weapons. The PRC assistant foreign minister rejected U.S. allegations and described the contents of the consignment as writing materials, some metals, and machinery components.

While the U.S. secretary of state stressed that there is reliable information to prove that the Chinese vessel is carrying chemical materials and he mentioned inspection of the vessel, the PRC assistant foreign minister stressed the absence of any documentary or physical evidence to the effect and said: It is possible that the U.S. secretary of state is not well-informed of the facts pertaining to the PRC vessel.

The U.S. act of waylaying the PRC vessel based on claims that it was carrying chemical materials that can be used to manufacture chemical weapons happened at the same time as the convocation of the disarmament conference in Geneva. One of the main debates of the conference was the issue of chemical disarmament and the formulation of a convention to limit, stockpile, or use chemical weapons.

Political experts believe that the U.S. action at this juncture can be construed as an effort on the part of the United States to impose the views of the Western clique propounded at the disarmament conference. With this action, the United States seeks to drive home the impression that if the positions of the West are not given adequate importance, it will resort to force and military strength even in the event of a lack of consensus at the chemical disarmament convention.

At present, Western countries are stressing in all talks on the subject the need to limit chemical weapons. This limitation includes preventing the entry of chemical materials into developing countries. While accepting the principle of the dismantling and elimination of chemical weapons, developing countries reject limitations on chemical materials, as they interpret this as a restriction on their chemical industries. Efforts to resolve this difference of opinion continue.

Since resolving this difference of opinion is linked to generating a greater sense of trust between the two groups of countries, actions such as the U.S. interception of the PRC vessel only result in mistrust by countries. This, in turn, hinders the attainment of an international consensus on chemical disarmament.

'Negative Impact' on U.S.-PRC Ties

LD1408145193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] A Chinese cargo ship suspected by America of carrying chemical substances remains suspended with its fate unknown in the territorial waters of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The vessel has been surrounded by U.S. warships while U.S. aircraft have buzzed it and undertaken reconnaissance operations.

The Chinese ship, which was destined for the Persian Gulf port of Dubayy, has apparently not been allowed to berth at her destination and her destination remains uncertain.

The Chinese Government has strongly protested to America about the matter declaring that the stoppage of the Chinese vessel is repugnant to international law and nation's rights in the international waters.

The U.S. ambassador in China too has been summoned to the Chinese Foreign Ministry and handed over a strong worded protest note by the Chinse Government.

Despite this, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has said that America is determined to inspect the suspected Chinese ship, which she believes is carrying chemical substances.

In the opinion of China, America should not act as a global policeman, and the stoppage of the Chinese cargo ship from moving towards its final destination is tantamount to an uncalled-for intervention and is contrary to the rights of nations and safe navigation of cargo vessels in the international waters. Therefore, it is expected that China will not easily surrounder to the U.S. views.

There may exist various reasons on the probability that China will not allow America to inspect a Chinese vessel. China is a major state which is seeking global prestige. Undoubtedly surrender to American's irrational demands will undermine Peking's global status. Moreover China is a country with a developing economy and it needs reliable foreign markets. Therefore, if China's commercial link to the outside world is influenced by America's ambitious desires, naturally Peking will confront problems in securing markets.

On this very ground one can say that China's national interests, which are constituted by its international prestige and commercial interests, determine the Chinese official's attitude in dealing with the problem that America has created for it.

Of course, it must be noted that China has no desire to engage in a hostile confrontation with America over a minor issue involving detention of its cargo vessel. But at the same time it is not expected that it will surrender to the American demand on allowing inspection of the vessel.

A stronger probability is that both sides look for a middle of the way political solution so that, while preserving their dignity, America be reassured that it did not possess reliable information about the cargo of the Chinese vessel.

Berthing of the Chinese ship at one of the Persian Gulf ports without inspection and unloading of its cargo is something practical.

The Chinese Government has announced that Dubayy is the destination of its cargo vessel and it appears that, in case America abandons to pressure the United Arab Emirates for the inspection of the ship's consignment it will be possible to reach a political settlement.

However the episode of the Chinese vessel ends, it will undoubtedly have a negative impact in the already tense U.S.-Chinese relations. This will make China realize that America does not want durable peace in the world and, therefore, Peking has to prepare itself for a difficult living in the complicated conditions of international relations in which Washington wants to impose its views and interests on others.

The episode of the Chinese cargo ship points to the initial signs of growing distrust between America and China, and this is not a good tiding for the world in the post Cold War era.

Minister on Islamic Decision To Send Troops to Bosnia

NC1508070893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran has called for efforts by the international community, especially the Islamic countries, to combat Serbian aggression in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In response to the latest remarks by the UN secretary general on sending forces from Islamic countries to Somalia, Javad Zarif, deputy foreign minister for European affairs, said: The Islamic countries' decision to send forces to Bosnia-Herzegovina is based on international requirements, and on the need to terminate Serbian atrocities. Therefore, the UN secretary general's justification for the UN's failure to send troops to Bosnia-Herzegovina is unacceptable to Islamic countries.

In an exclusive interview with our correspondent, he stressed: The adoption of such a decision on the presence of forces from Islamic countries in Bosnia-Herzegovina or in Somalia concerns the Islamic countries, not the United Nations.

The deputy foreign minister referred to the UN resolutions on Bosnia-Herzegovina, which had never been very useful in practice, and commented: The UN Security Council's recent decision to dispatch 7,600 troops from Islamic countries to Bosnia-Herzegovina does not satisfy the demands of Islamic countries. He called on the

international community, especially the Islamic countries, to end the continued crimes of the Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Armenian Military Attacks on Azerbaijan Condemned

LD1508114193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0950 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The repeated acts of aggression by the Armed Forces of Armenia against the territory of Azerbaijan have entered a more dangerous phase now that the towns of Fizuli and Agdam are under threat.

Because of the attacks a large number of civilians have been killed or injured and many people have been made refugees. It seems that the forces of Armenia—without considering the severe outcome of their aggression—want to use the political situation in Azerbaijan to the utmost in order to advance their own expansionist policy. According to some sources the attacks by the Armenian forces against Azerbaijan have so far led to the homelessness of 620,000 Azerbaijani citizens and the destruction of 500 schools and nursery schools. At the same time 17 percent of the territory of the independent Republic of Azerbaijan has been occupied by the aggressive forces.

This is taking place at a time when the aggression by the Armenian forces has produced a severe reaction on the part of the United Nations and independent countries of the world, including the Islamic Republic of Iran. In reaction to the attacks by the Armenian forces, our Foreign Ministry issued a statement on Thursday, condemning these acts of aggression and calling for an immediate end to the operations as well as the quick and unconditional withdrawal of all aggressive Armenian forces from all the occupied lands of the Azerbaijan Republic.

It is clear that, because the acts of aggression have been condemned in UN Security Council Resolutions 823 and 853, there should be no legal or rational excuse for the Armenian forces to continue their aggression. In addition to causing great material damage and human losses, the aggression has brought about the danger of the open or indirect involvement of countries from outside the region and possibly the expansion of the war zone to neighboring regions. Also it is obvious to all that military aggression against an independent country and a threat to its territorial integrity cannot achieve stable political solutions, but will delay peaceful and political solutions and will increase the extent of damages and casualties.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, while announcing its preparedness to participate in peaceful efforts, stresses the need for the achievement of a just and honorable peace by the nations of the region.

Velayati Says Relations With Japan 'Good'

LD1408180793 Tehran IRNA in English 1719 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 14, IRNA—Foreign Minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati today blasted the domineering policies of certain countries who were trying to legislate laws for the world in line with their colonialist objectives.

Velayati, who was talking to the Japanese ambassador here, Tsuneo Oyake, congratulated him on the emergence of the new Japanese coalition government.

He referred to "good" relations between Tehran and Tokyo and said talks and exchange of political delegations between the two countries were "very fruitful" in acquainting each other of their independent stands.

The minister pointed to Japan's "positive and independent" stand at the recent summit of the Group of Seven industrialized countries and said, "any country is free to hold its own ideology and to express its foreign policies based on its viewpoints."

Tsuneo, who carried a message from the Japanese foreign minister for Velayati, underscored Iran's important role in the Persian Gulf region and said expansion of ties between Tehran and Tokyo occupied an important place in the foreign policy of his country.

The Japanese foreign minister in his message called for exchange of delegations and promotion relations, between Iran and Japan.

The two officials also discussed regional and international cooperation between Iran and Japan at the meeting.

Pakistan

'Unidentified' Gunmen Kill 2 Election Candidates

BK1608102393 Hong Kong AFP in English 0944 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 16 (AFP)—Unidentified gunmen have murdered an aide to former premier Benazir Bhutto and a member of her party who was a candidate for October elections, police said Monday.

Bhutto aide Malik Zafar Ali was shot by two men on a motorbike late Sunday as he was returning home from his Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) election office in Punjab province's capital city of Lahore, police said.

His brother Malik Shams, who was seriously wounded in the attack, accused former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and his former intelligence chief Imtiaz Ali of abetting the killing.

Police would not comment on the murder, although they said a case had been registered concerning Shams allegations.

Officials of Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League termed the accusations baseless and part of a smear campaign against the party.

Ali, who fought and lost against Sharif in 1990 polls, was again contesting a provincial assembly seat in Lahore.

Party sources said Ali, a vocal opponent of Sharif, had recently claimed that some 10,000 names registered in the 1990 voters list for his constituency were fake and had asked election commissioner Justice Naeemuddin to cancel them before the next elections.

No arrests have been made so far.

In the second killing a former deputy speaker of the North West Frontier Province's assembly, Mohammed Nawaz Khan, was shot dead at his home in Haripur district Sunday.

The killer died almost immediately afterwards, shot by Khan's bodyguard.

Khan had already survived one attempt on his life.

The two murders were the first in the run-up to elections set for October 6 and 9 following the resignation of Sharif and President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on July 18 under an army-brokered settlement of a bitter political struggle between the two men.

Bhutto, condemning the Lahore murder in a statement, said if such incidents continued the whole country would be plunged into chaos. It could also jeopardise the caretaker government's plans to the elections.

Acting Prime Minister Speeks on Independence Day

BK1408101593 Islamabad PTV Television Network in Urdu 0315 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Independence Day address of Acting Prime Minister Moin Qureshi from the lawns of the Parliament House in Islamabad on 14 Aug—live]

[Text] In the name of Allah, the most beneficient and merciful. Eminent ladies and gentlemen, dear countrymen, peace be upon you. Today, we are celebrating the 47th anniversary of Pakistan's independence. This is the day which fulfilled the dreams of Pakistan's founder Mohammad Ali Jinnah. What was that dream? It was to form a country for the Muslims, where they could lead their lives according to their aspirations, ambitions, and religious traditions and where they could shape their own destiny. Today, we should think about whether we have all fulfilled the dreams of Jinnah in the past 40 years and whether we all have marched ahead on the path of development, national integration, and prosperity. Many people are of the view that probably the dream of Jinnah has not been fulfilled. You all know the reason for that. The nation, which has been passing through a difficult period for some time, did not get the opportunity to stand on the strong foundations of mutual cooperation, the spirit of working together, and political awareness. My dear countrymen, despite all past circumstances, I would like to assure you that I have not lost hope for Pakistan's future. Today, on 14 August, my message is one of hope. It is the hope which was nourished by Mohammad Ali Jinnah—to work with a sense of sincerity and patriotism.

My hope for the country and its future rests on four things. In politics, we are definitely marching toward an absolute democratic system, which is in accordance with the aspirations and ambitions of the people. To improve the current economic situation, my government is prepared to take all those tough measures which are essential for social reforms. To a considerable extent, the direction we have taken in this regard has the concurrence of our political leaders. In social welfare, we are determined to spend the maximum resources of the government for the betterment of man and the environment. This is the only way to improve the condition of our nation. At the international level, the world is changing very fast and we cannot remain aloof to these changes. Therefore, wherever it is necessary, Pakistan should not hesitate to review its current policies. Our objective is to see Pakistan join the developed countries of the world with dignity and honor.

Some time in the past, our political situation was such that it gave rise to disorder and distrust in the country, which naturally has affected our democratic system. There were also setbacks in the tasks of the government. Although democratic institutions have been established in Pakistan, the method of our thinking and working is the same as that which existed during pre-independence days. We have become the rulers of the country, but not its servants. Under such circumstances, the conclusion of a vast majority of the people has been justified: despite attaining independence, and even after 40 years, we are not able to create a totally representative and perfect democracy. The foremost reason for this is that our national and democratic institutions could not be strengthened. This is because, from the first day itself, our institutions, political leaders, and government machinery had to face all sorts of transition and hardships. Soon after forming Pakistan, we had to rehabilitate thousands of homeless and helpless refugees. We had to fight two wars. Then, we had to bear the burden of taking care of 3.5 million refugees from Afghanistan. Of course, the Soviet Union had to face defeat due to the Afghan jehad. But the Afghan jehad led Pakistan to pay a very dear cost in political, social, and economic sectors. The entry of illegal weapons into our country and the menace of narcotics have also resulted in several problems with law and order. It is evident that all these have cast a bad influence on our democratic system and national institutions.

My dear countrymen, thank God, that our politicians and people have demonstrated extreme statesmanship and sagacity to bale out the country from the difficulties in the past few months. All the political leaders have given national interests priority above their personal desires. The

impartiality and the dedication to democracy displayed by the Pakistani military leadership in the interest of the nation has rescued the country from these difficulties. My dear elders, brothers, and sisters, I am glad to say that the country is again marching along the path of democracy. In this connection today, I would like to reaffirm my previous announcement that elections will be held on time and that we will not allow any hindrance. I have no doubt that these elections will be free, fair, and impartial. My government will make the elections so transparent that no one will be able to find fault with them. I assure you that my government will fulfill its responsibility in this regard. I appeal to the people, all political parties, and the government officials to help me in maintaining law and order during elections, to respect laws of the country, and to take full interest in casting votes so that nobody's vote is wasted. Franchise should not be considered as a mere right; it should be performed as a duty. In my view, the upcoming elections will play a very significant role in the history of Pakistan and the promotion of our democratic system.

My dear countrymen, the weakening of democracy in the previous years has naturally affected our economy as well as our economic condition, creating all sorts of hardships. This is not an occasion to go deep into those hardships. I will inform you in detail of this situation within a few days. Now, I will only say that my government has formulated a comprehensive economic program which is essential to meet the current situation. If we implement this program in toto, God willing, our future will be very bright.

I would like to make a special reference to the Kashmir issue. First, I visited Azad Jammu and Kashmir after assuming office, which reflects the importance my government attaches to the Kashmir issue. Human rights are being crushed mercilessly in Kashmir. My government will continue all its efforts at the global level to end these atrocities. We attach paramount importance to implementing favorable human rights conditions—not only in Kashmir, but in Palestine, Bosnia, and all other countries of the world as well.

On this occasion, I deem it necessary to assure the minorities living in Pakistan that my government will pursue Islamic traditions. And I would like to remind you of Mohammad Ali Jinnah's directive that we should provide the minorities with not only fair but generous treatment.

My dear elders, brothers, and sisters, finally, I consider it necessary to draw the attention of the nation to the fact that Pakistan is ushering in a new era of democracy in its history. It is not possible to achieve new goals without forgetting the bitterness of the past. The wounds sustained in the past should be assuaged. Pakistan should be built with the same spirit with which this country was established. Pakistan should be a country which has unity, love, justice, progress, and all the amenities of life, as well as that which provides dignity and honor to every person. It should also be the country where the ruling party members and their opponents carry the democratic system forward. This will be possible only when the opposition is also given its due and respectful place in the assemblies.

My dear countrymen, today, please take a pledge with me that we will not repeat the mistakes of the past. We will gladly accept the outcome of the elections because defeat and victory are an integral part of politics and democracy, as they are in sports. Together let us march ahead toward the goal of unity and provide concrete evidence for being a united nation. The spirit of nationalism does not have anything to do with a person's locality and province. It should also have nothing to do with the conflicts of caste and creed and other differences. My prayers are for the creation of a decent and strong government, after the elections, which can establish a true democratic system in Pakistan. May God grant his support and help to all of us. Long live Pakistan.

Afghanistan's Hekmatyar Arrives in Islamabad

BK1608073193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] Afghan Prime Minister Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar arrived in Islamabad this morning on a three-day visit to Pakistan. He was received at the airport by caretaker Prime Minister Moin Qureshi, acting Senate Chairperson Noor Jahan Panezai, federal ministers, representatives of the three services, and diplomats. A 19-gun salute sounded as the Afghan prime minister disembarked from his plane; he was also accorded a guard of honor. The two prime ministers will have formal talks today. Earlier, Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar was seen off on his departure from Peshawar by retired Major General Khurshid Ali Khan, the acting governor of North-West Frontier Province [NWFP]; and Mufti Mohammad Abbas, the acting chief minister.

The Afghan prime minister attended a banquet in Peshawar last night which was hosted in his honor by acting NWFP governor retired Maj. Gen. Khurshid Ali Khan. The banquet was also attended by acting Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Abbas, provincial ministers, and Pakistani ambassador to Kabul, Amir Usman Khan.

Greetings Sent To Indian Leaders on Independence Day

BK1508030893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] President Wasim Sajjad and Prime Minister Moin Qureshi have congratulated Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma and Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao on India's Independence Day today. In their separate messages, they said that Pakistan attaches great importance to tension-free and cooperative relations with India. They expressed the hope that they will continue their efforts to establish good relations between the two countries.